Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, May 17, 2018 | Read by more than 52,000 people | Price when sold 70p

Inspectors set a six-month deadline for improvement

CONCERNS RAISED OVER CARE HOME

Report by Dayna Farrington

A CARE home where staff lacked training and accidents were 'inconsistently' recorded has been placed in special measures.

Safeharbour, in Hagley Road, Pedmore, has been rated inadequate by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) – despite being rated as good less than two years ago.

The care home now has six months to improve or the CQC will take action, which could lead to the home's closure.

The home's safety and leadership were given the bottom rating of inadequate, while its effectiveness, responsiveness and care were rated requires improvement by CQC inspectors, who visited in March.

Concerns raised by inspectors in a report include a lack of oversight by the provider and registered manager, lack of staff training in specialist areas and that people were not fully protected from harm and abuse.

Failed

The report said: "The provider had failed to implement systems and processes to keep people safe from avoidable harm and abuse. We saw a number of potential safeguarding concerns were not being identified by the provider from incidents, restraints or accidents, which included injuries to individuals. The provider had failed to notify the local authority and the Care Quality Commission of these events.

"Staff spoken with told us they had received training in how to safeguard people from abuse and said if they were concerned for people's safety, they would report this to the registered manager immediately. However, we found no evidence of staff reporting these concerns following the incidents that we identified.

"People's healthcare needs were not routinely met and we saw people's access to healthcare services was inconsistent and healthcare plans were not fully completed."

When contacted, the home referred to Dudley Council for comment. Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council, said: "Safeharbour is a privately run company. We are aware of the concerns and are working with the CQC, families, residents and the owners of Safeharbour to address the issues raised in the CQC report."

MP READY TO GO ROUND THE WREKIN FOR CHARITY

Dudley North MP Ian Austin with Hugh Porter will both take part in the Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive on Sunday

AN MP will be getting in the saddle for a cycling challenge this weekend.

Dudley North's Ian Austin will take on the Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive on Sunday.

The sportive was first launched in 2016 and has attracted hundreds of cyclists in its first two years. There are three routes to tackle – a 100-mile tour, a 64-mile route and a shorter 24-mile ride, which is named after Black Country cycling hero Hugh Porter MBE, who won Commonwealth gold in 1966.

"The event appeals to everybody, and it's brilliant that an MP wants to ride – it's an honour for someone like Ian to sign up," said Mr Porter.

"Ian is a keen cyclist and does quite a bit with Stourbridge Cycling Club. It's great that someone like Ian with such a busy schedule can find the time to do this. It proves how highly regarded the cause is – raising money for such a brilliant organisation as Compton Care."

Labour MP Mr Austin will tackle the 64-mile route into the Shropshire countryside then back to Kingswinford.

■ Pensioner pedal power – page 2

POLITICS

UKIP switch puts the Tories in charge

THE Conservatives have taken full control of Dudley Council after the last remaining UKIP councillor in the borough jumped ship to secure the Tories the narrowest of majorities.

The Conservatives and Labour were left locked on 35 seats each following dramatic local elections in Dudley. It had set up the prospect of a crucial vote this week to decide which party would control the council.

But it emerged on Monday that UKIP councillor Kerry Lewis has joined the Conservatives to give them the vital extra seat needed for the all-important majority.

POLICE

Boy charged over Merry Hill attack

A SCHOOLBOY has been charged over an alleged hammer attack on a teenager at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

A boy, aged 17, suffered facial injuries at around 1pm on Saturday while the centre was packed with shoppers.

Police said a 16-year-old boy, who cannot be named because of his age, has been charged with possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. He appeared before magistrates on Monday.

ATTRACTION

Oh we do like to be beside the zooside

HIT the beach on Castle Hill as Dudley Zoo gets set to host seaside family fun next week.

Ow Bin Ya Sands is set to transform the attraction's Sensory Garden into a beach play area, just in time for the May half-term holiday. Around 80 tonnes of sand is being piled into a large wooden frame, so youngsters can make sandcastles from May 26.

INSIDE

THE GRANNIES GO BOLLYWOOD

PAGE 3

Geoff Hill Ltd
GAS AND ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE
A RIGHT ROYAL GIVE AWAY !

LARGE 43INCH LED TELEVISION WITH FREEVIEW HD
ONLY £299.95

32INCH SMART LED TELEVISION FREEVIEW HD, FREE 5 YEAR G'TEE
ONLY £299.95

32INCH LED TELEVISION WITH FREEVIEW HD
ONLY £199.95

OPEN 7 DAYS
01384 395852
www.geoffhillltd.co.uk
7 High Street, Amblecote
Stourbridge
West Midlands, DY8 4DE

FREE PARKING - GEOFF HILL GAS & ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE SUPPLYING THE WEST MIDLANDS FOR OVER 55 YEARS

CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
THE TICKET	23
TV	26-28
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	31-32
MOTORING	33-34
SPORT	39-40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Stourbridge CHRONICLE
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Vintage car driver seriously injured

Andrew Holdaway

A FATHER who has been left fighting for his life following a hit-and-run crash in Stourbridge was driving a 1950s vintage car.

Andrew Holdaway, aged 62, remains in a serious condition in hospital following the smash on Norton Road during Bank Holiday Monday.

He had taken his beloved Dellow MK1 for a drive that sunny afternoon when it was involved in the crash with a Ford Mondeo, which saw the Dellow flip over and left a mangled wreck.

The three men in the Mondeo fled the scene, prompting a police appeal.

Mr Holdaway managed to free himself from the wreckage before being taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Shared

His son Ben posted an appeal on Facebook for any witnesses or people with information to contact the police.

His plea has been shared more than 2,000 times.

He wrote: "If you know my dad, which a lot of you do, you know he's a strong guy full of life and charisma.

"I have no doubt he is going to make it through this, but there was no need for him to ever be put in this position in the first place."

He added: "If you can, please help. Please help find the guys that did this and hand any relevant information to the police."

Anyone with information has been asked to call police on 101.

Sergeant Alan Hands said police are still investigating the circumstances leading up to the crash.

He added: "My team are focused on identifying these three men."

Pedal power all the way for pensioners

A GROUP of pedal-powered pensioners have proved age is no barrier ahead of a cycling challenge.

The cycling-mad pals have their sights set on the Banks's Round the Wrekin Sportive, which sets off from Kingswinford on Sunday.

Four-times world pursuit champion Hugh Porter MBE, 78, said he wants the efforts of his fellow members of the Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club to be an inspiration for others ahead of the event.

With an average age of just under 74, the club members still manage to get out at least once a week for a ride.

Black Country cycling legend Hugh, who is also patron of Halesowen Cycling Club, hailed the virtues of cycling – particularly its camaraderie and impact on people's fitness.

He said: "This shows how important regular exercise is for people as they get older. It's a way to keep healthy and cycling is one of those sports which is great for it – you have the rhythmic peddling and there's no banging or jarring.

"It is a sport people can enjoy and adapt to. You can ride at any pace you want and there is fantastic camaraderie. That encourages good friendships and that is what sport does.

Hugh Porter, centre, with veteran cyclists who are taking take part in the Round the Wrekin Sportive

Entries

"Age is no deterrent at all – some of the group are taking on the 100km cycle at the sportive.

Money raised from the event will go to Compton Care in Wolverhampton, which supports patients and their families living with an incurable illness.

Today marks the last chance to register for the event by emailing event organiser Lisa Bockhoefer via email at fundraising@comptoncare.org.uk but the entries must be in by midnight.

The sportive was first launched in 2016 and has attracted hundreds of cyclists in its first two years. There are three routes people can tackle – a 100 mile tour, 64 miles and the shorter 24 miles, which is named after cycling star Hugh, who lives in Wolverhampton.

Lisa said: "This is a great event and is now a permanent fixture on the cycling calendar."

The sportive starts at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club in Wall Heath before heading out into the Shropshire Hills, a route taking in the Long Mynd, Stiperstones and The Wrekin.

Charlotte Lilley, marketing officer for Compton Care, said: "Last year's event was a huge success raising more than £28,000 for Compton, which will go towards providing care and support for patients and their families living with the effects of incurable illnesses.

"We are now looking to build on last year's sportive and want to encourage participants to raise a minimum of £50 sponsorship which will pay for the equivalent of 10 freshly home cooked meals for patients staying on our inpatient unit."

The sportive takes place on Sunday, May 20. Entries start at £16 for the shortest route, rising to £26 for the epic route.

The 24-mile short route is described as 'a gentle ride around quiet lanes intended for all types of riders,' while the 64-mile standard route is 'a hilly ride through Shropshire and over the Wrekin, for fit riders who cycle regularly'.

The 100-mile epic route is called 'a serious challenge with lengthy, steep hills to climb which will stretch experienced and well trained cyclist'.

Repair costs spark concern that church could close

A CHURCH which has stood in Dudley for nearly 180 years could close as it faces £500,000 worth of repairs.

St Peter's Church in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, is in need of the cash for repairs to its stonework and roof – an amount its congregation of 60 members is struggling to raise.

Reverend Guy Hewlett said losing the church, built in 1844, would be a 'devastating blow' for its members and said urgent action was needed.

Mr Hewlett said: "The church is in need of a fair amount of stone work and work to the roof. The sum total we need is estimated at £500,000 over the next 10 to 20 years.

"Our biggest challenge is that we only have 60 regular members and we do not have that sort of money.

"The church is locally listed but not nationally. We are in this really difficult position where we do not have the money to put the church back where it needs to be. For the members of the church it would be a devastating blow if we lost it. We know there is a worry in the community."

Parishioners from Upper Gornal have been invited to a public meeting on June 9 to discuss the future of the building.

More than 1,000 sign bank petition

AROUND 1,500 people have signed a petition calling for Brierley Hill's last town centre bank to be saved.

The town's market supervisor Steven Bridgewater launched the petition more than two weeks ago after the proposed closure of Lloyds Bank, due to shut on July 18.

It will leave the High Street with no bank branches, which has shocked traders and other customers.

HSBC and Barclays branches in the town centre have already closed.

Mr Bridgewater said: "People are continuing to sign up and it's going in the right direction. "We have had loads of support from traders and shoppers too. We're getting near 1,500. It is looking good – I just hope it will make a difference."

Warning of delays during resurfacing

RESURFACING works started on a main road in the Black Country this week. Drivers have been warned of possible disruption on Oakham Road, Tividale, until Wednesday, May 23. Work will take place between 9am and 3pm and diversions will be signposted.

Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds
Family Run Est since 1978
SOFAS, VINYLS LAMINATES, STAIRLIFTS
FREE delivery - disposal and set up on beds and suites
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets, Plus Shave doors
DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
Double divan bed, free headboard, 2 free drawers Was £699 Now £399
Heavy Domestic Saxonys from £7.50 sq yd was £14.99
3 Seater Sofa Only £399
Divan beds and mattresses from only £72.00
Carpets from only £3.50 sq yd
UP TO 50% OFF PLUS FREE FITTING (on selected carpets T&C's apply)
100's of rolls and end of rolls in store at knockdown prices WE WILL BEAT YOUR BIG SUPERSTORE
Click on-line for many great prices - Check out our video and 5 star reviews on www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00 SUNDAY 10AM-3PM
Quarry Bank · Lye · Wollescote · Kinver · Stourbridge · Pedmore · Brierley Hill · Wordsley
Find us on Google Maps
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
WE COVER ALL AREAS
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541

Hearing Problems ...or maybe just ear wax?
DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE!
The symptoms of ear wax are impaired hearing, dizziness, ear pain, a plugged or full sensation and ringing in the ear. It is very common for ears to become blocked with wax, leading to discomfort, pain and hearing loss.
You should never attempt to self-clean and always seek professional advice. We offer safe, gentle and effective methods of wax removal.
FOR A LIMITED TIME, WITH THIS ADVERT
25% OFF MICROSUCTION WAX REMOVAL
Stourbridge Hearing Centre
Stourbridge Hearing Centre
59 High Street
Stourbridge DY8 1DE
01384 476 306

Footworks Chiropody
Keeping you one step ahead...
. Ingrown Toe Nails Treated
. Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming
. Diabetic Foot Care
. General Foot Care
. Callus Reduction
HCPC Registered & Foot Healthcare Practitioners
Home Visits Available
01384 413444
201 - 203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Search is on for new tip as report is prepared

DUDLEY borough needs two tips but is struggling to find a new location for one major refuse site, according to Dudley Council's deputy leader.

Councillor David Vickers said: "It would be sensible to have two sites in the borough, but at the moment we're struggling to find one, let alone two. I don't know where the ideal spot is but we're looking across the borough."

Plans to move waste operations to a central depot in Leys Road, Brierley Hill, were scrapped last year and cabinet member Councillor Karen Shakespeare has confirmed that the council is now considering alternatives.

Councillor Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment, said: "Council officers have come up with a number of sites and we will be putting forward a report with those options later this summer. "

The former Labour ruling group wanted to sell off the Birmingham Street tip in Stourbridge and make Leys Depot a central base for waste disposal. That plan was rejected when Conservatives took charge of the local authority last year. There had been concerns about extra traffic on roads near Merry Hill shopping centre.

Councillor Vickers added: "To my mind the Stourbridge tip has got one or two things wrong with it. It's very close to houses and there can be tailbacks onto the ring road. There isn't anywhere that is ideal."

Open day after refurbishment

EXTRA safety measures have been installed as part of a £1.2 million refurbishment for a retirement housing complex in Brierley Hill.

Now residents and service users at Myles Court are to be treated to an open day event as a 'thank you' for being patient during refurbishment.

Celebrations will take place on May 25 between 10am and 4pm with entertainment and refreshments and local celebrities in attendance.

The refurbishment at Myles Court is part of Housing & Care 21's commitment to investing £27 million a year up to 2021 in improving the quality of their retirement housing across the country. All 87 Myles Court apartments have had a new kitchen and bathroom fitted and a new fire alarm.

Homes proposed

AN application for 80 homes on a derelict site in Dudley has moved closer.

CB Collier DY Limited wants permission for pre-development work at the former MEB site in Bull Street.

Frontman Frankie is stepping aside

Frankie Prazer with Vi Westwood, Linda Marita and Sid River

THE man behind various musical charity nights in Stourbridge is stepping down from his role as frontman after one final knees-up.

Frankie Prazer, from Dudley, headed up political musicians' group We Shall Overcome Dudley for three years, but has decided to pass the baton on to allow for a fresh start.

He recently hosted his last musical bonanza as leader at Katie Fitzgerald's in Stourbridge to raise money for volunteers at Leslie's Care Packages – a group combatting homelessness in the region.

The event raised about £250 overall, and saw music played by local acts Sid River, Linda Marita Smith, The Daisies and more.

Frankie, aged 47, said: "We raised altogether about £250 for Leslie's Care Packages. We were given clothing and food donations too."

Supporters

Frankie started WSO with his son Ryan in Luton in 2015 but after moving to Dudley a year later, they wanted to carry the movement on. But he is now handing over the reins to supporter Jess Silk and Black Country Radio presenter Ian Marrey.

He said: "Jess and Ian are big supporters of WSO. It will be sad to leave but I have said I will help them if they need it.

"I know it'll be in good hands."

WSO events are held across the country and are described as being organised by 'musicians angry at austerity cuts'.

Last year,250 events were held simultaneously around the country with the next one in Dudley being held in October.

Grannies go Bollywood to back up Indian star

INTERNET sensations Dudley's Dancing Grannies have been wooed by their own Prince Charming in the form of an international Bollywood star who has added them to his nationwide tour.

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh will be on the road with his CON.FI.DEN.TIAL tour at the Birmingham Arena, SSE Wembley Arena, and Leeds First Direct Arena on May 19, 26 and 28 with the Grannies as part of the show.

Diljit became aware of the performing pretend pensioners after he was told of them performing in Solihull shopping centre to his track Patiala Pegg. He eventually tracked them down as the Fizzogs comedy troupe, via social media and invited them to join his tour.

Fizzog Deb Nicholls explained: "One of the many bystanders at Solihull took a video and uploaded it to Facebook. Diljit saw the video and shared it and it was retweeted by a huge business tycoon in India. We were featured in more than 25 news articles all across India after that tweet.

Routine

"In January we found out that Diljit is touring the UK and thought it would be a good idea to attempt contact him and see if we could at least meet him. A guy called Bill contacted us asking our availability to perform with Diljit on his tour but as we are in Ireland the same day for the Maritime Festival it looked like it wasn't going to happen.

"A month later we got an Instagram post from Diljit, after his management put a call out to find the Grannies. He wrote: 'I love you ladies. You are genuinely beautiful Angels. I would love to meet you and invite you to my UK shows. Also I want to feature you on my tour.'"

Deb added: "It was like a scene from Cinderella but instead of the glass slipper it was the Indian prince looking for three grannies and their slippers."

The trio, who have a regular show on Black Country Radio, are now in rehearsals fine-tuning their Asian dance routine with extra moves choreographed by the local Eclectic Dancers group.

Deb added: "Karan and Raji from the Eclectics were responsible for the Grannies learning Bhangra in the first place so we owe a lot to them."

The Dancing Grannies – AKA Fizzog performers Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins and Jacky Fellows

Diljit Dosanjh is a star in Hindi and Punjabi movies

The Fizzogs trio when not in granny garb

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group worried over beauty spot

RESIDENTS concerned that a Dudley beauty spot may be developed for housing are calling for it to be preserved as a community green space.

The Friends of Gornal Field formed last year to save a former landfill and quarry site off Holloway Street, in Upper Gornal, from development. They have cleared paths and held litter picks at the site. One of the Friends, Maggie Nicholls, said: "Gornal Field is a marvellous community resource which has sadly been neglected, we aim to enhance and improve the area. We are very concerned that more than £70,000 has been spent by the council surveying the site."

Fire broke out at derelict factory

FIREFIGHTERS believe youths may have started a fire at a derelict former factory in Stourbridge on Sunday afternoon.

West Midlands Fire Service were called to the building off Old Wharf Road, near the popular Bonded Warehouse venue, at around 2.50pm.

Stourbridge fire station watch commander Anthony Dingley, said they had been called out to the site many times in recent yers. "It is very derelict, it has no roof. Youths I would imagine have set fire to something inside – it was only small pockets of fire."

New £644k pitch is state-of-the-art

THE beautiful game is looking better than ever after the opening of a new £640,000 artificial football pitch at Dudley's Dell Stadium.

The floodlit 3G playing surface was officially opened by the Mayor of Dudley last Wednesday.

The event also included a football match between Wolves All Stars and Dudley Town FC, led by Jody Craddock and Pete Thompson respectively.

The pitch cost around £644,000 made up of £543,927 from the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund, plus £100,000 from Dudley Council.

Cider festival planned at pub in Upper Gornal

AN Upper Gornal pub is holding a two-day summer cider festival next month.

The event at The Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street will run on Friday and Saturday, June 1 and 2.

There will be also musical entertainment in a marquee on the car park and a barbecue.

Another event, a family fun day, is also taking place at the pub on Sunday, June 3.

DON'T throw out costly cabinets when you can re-use them!
We Can Replace the Doors
Doors & More Opening Times
Monday to Friday 10am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10 - 4pm
Closed Sunday
01384 293654
Fit New Kitchen Unit Doors!
it's Cheaper
it's Quicker
it's Cleaner
FREE WORKTOPS
*When you buy 7 or more Doors
Over 40 Styles & Colours
www.iudk.co.uk.
Next to Sainsburys - Wordsley Green Stourbridge
0800 088 7044
Add Value to your home with our amazing concept

COUNTY NEWS

Shopping park sold for £53.6m

LONGBRIDGE Shopping Park in south west Birmingham on the site of the former MG Rover works is being sold for £53.6 million.

Developers St Modwen have agreed the sale to Columbia Threadneedle Investments on behalf of Zurich Assurance. The park includes the largest Marks & Spencer store in the West Midlands at 150,000 sq ft, a 95,000 sq ft Sainsbury's, Smyths Toys, Boots, Poundland, Mountain Warehouse, Holland & Barrett, Carphone Warehouse and Specsavers.

Extending over 468 acres, the former works and wider estate at Longbridge is a major regeneration project.

Join ramblers and find hidden gems

A WALKING charity is inviting people to head outdoors to explore their area and uncover the hidden gems on their doorstep.

Residents in the West Midlands can step out with the ramblers as part of their Walk About Festival later this month. During this year's festival, which runs between May 26 and June 3, there will be hundreds of free group walks on offer.

All walks during the festival are free to attend and offer something for everyone including those after a short summer stroll, to seasoned walkers. For further information, go to ramblers.org.uk/walkabout2018

Overhaul plea on rail ticketing

RAIL ticketing could be overhauled to make it fairer and easier to use, bosses have said. A public consultation is being launched by the industry to suggest ways of simplifying the system.

The Rail Delivery Group (RDG), which represents private train operators and Government-owned Network Rail, said the industry's suggestions will aim to be revenue neutral, with no change in average fares and no extra support from taxpayers.

Dancers picked for national festival

A GROUP of talented young dancers from West Bromwich have been selected to take part in a national festival. Chicane Dance Company will perform at the nation's largest national youth dance festival, U.Dance 2018, taking place this July in Ipswich.

They join an impressive line-up of 12 dance groups, selected from more than 290 entrants nationwide through a series of 20 regional heats.

Standing up for our communities

Diane Davies

SINCE The Chronicle launched more than 30 years ago, we have covered every aspect of life in our communities. We have reported on triumph, disaster, joy and sorrow. We shine a light on decisions made by those in power – and stand up for our readers.

In recent years, technology has revolutionised the way people consume news and information. This in turn has prompted massive changes for our industry.

Throughout these changes, The Chronicle has continued to focus on the local news and issues and stand for the same core principles. We are committed to delivering the very best news service, keeping you in touch with news and events from around the Black Country and Staffordshire.

20 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our journalists are dedicated to producing accurate, interesting stories that inform and entertain. We will hold those in power to account, exposing bad decisions to public scrutiny, but praising them if they get it right. Our reporters are out and about every day, at council meetings, court hearings, public events and much more.

There continues to be plenty of debate over Press regulation in this country. Only last week, an amendment to the Data Protection Bill could have endangered the free Press. The Section 40 legislation would have required publishers who are not signed up to State-backed Press regulator Impress – funded by Max Mosley – to pay the costs of legal action brought against them, whether they won or lost.

It was defeated but the threat to the freedom of the Press refuses to go away. We are proud of the work we do and are committed to the highest standards of journalism, which is why we are a member of Ipso, a robust, independent regulator that upholds the Editors' Code of Practice.

Finally, a word of thanks to our readers for your support, feedback and contributions. Thank you for helping us keep in touch with the communities we serve.

Diane Davies, Head of Weekly Titles

How we bring all the local news to your door

THIS week local newspapers across the UK, like the Chronicle, are taking part in Local Newspaper Week.

Every Chronicle edition is the product of a combined effort from a committed team – from the reporters and photographers to the advertising team selling space and the van drivers, newsagents and delivery boys and girls who distribute the paper.

As part of Local Newspaper Week we take a look at some of those responsible for ensuring your Chronicle hits the street each week.

The reporter

Having started as an apprentice, Tom Oakley is one of a team of reporters and photographers working across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

He covers all aspects of news, including 'calls' stories from the emergency services, human interest stories, and reporting about local government – even taste tests!

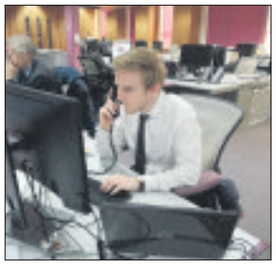
The sub-editor

Sarah Cowen-Strong is one of the final pieces in the editorial jigsaw after stories have been filed by reporters and checked by Chronicle editors.

She says: "Our aim is to make sure stories are legally and factually correct and well-balanced. We need to ensure there are no spelling mistakes and the correct grammar is used. We also write the headlines."

The features supervisor

Paula Richards is a features supervisor, specialising in the business and education sectors. Her job involves contacting schools, colleges and universities to help them promote open days and their digital marketing strategies, as well as planning advertising features and supplements.



News gathering – reporter Tom Oakley

Newsagent Tony Rudge and wife Gel

Advertising team – Paula Richards

Sub-editor and headline writer Sarah Cowen-Strong

In the press room with Duncan Rose

The press crew

On a typical day the huge printing presses at our Ketley print shop churn out about six million pages.

Duncan Rose is team leader in the plate room, and his responsibilities range from maintenance of the machinery, supervising deliveries, and overseeing the printing.

The newsagent

Each morning Tony Rudge wakes up while most of us are still in bed. He arrives at his Sedgley store to find the daily papers waiting for him at 6am.

Sport often dictates newspaper sales, with more copies of our sister, daily paper the Express & Star flying off the shelves when Wolves win, he said.

Your Chronicle is delivered by a team of dedicated men and women, boys and girls who receive a bundle of papers each week to distribute.

Tata Steel looks to sell firms amid restructure

TATA Steel Europe is looking at selling off two of its non-core businesses. It follows a portfolio review by the steel group of all its businesses to assess strategic fit and future potential.

It has now begun a process of seeking buyers for five business units which supply products to niche markets, allowing the company to continue to strengthen its focus on strategic strip products and markets.

They include Engineering Steels Service Centre in Wolverhampton, which is a stockholder and processes engineering steels and employs 20, and Walsall-based Firsteel, which coats steel for kitchen bakeware and has a 50-strong workforce.

Hans Fischer, chief executive of Tata Steel's European operations, said: "These potential sales follow the successful sale of other non-core businesses in recent years.

Focus

"The customer bases for the businesses being sold are distinct from the rest of Tata Steel Europe. We want to find the best owner for each of these business units who can focus on their needs to help them realise their full potential.

"These potential sales would enable Tata Steel Europe to focus investment and management resource on its core strip products business and strategic markets."

Tata Steel currently employs about 750 in the Black Country, including its Steelpark site at Wednesfield where 450 work, and Brierley Hill, as well as the service centre at Horseley Fields and Firsteel in Brockhurst Crescent.

Shopping parade on sale for £1.5m

A SHOPPING parade in Dudley town centre has gone on the market for £1.5 million in a bid to kick-start a development creating more than 30 flats.

The 1,000 sq ft site features shops on High Street, which form part of a larger building backing onto King Street. Planning permission has already been granted for 33 flats on the second floor but the development has yet to get off the ground.

The flats plan could be resurrected if a buyer for the site can be found. It is hoped developers will be attracted by site's the prominent town centre location.

The shops, which include the Premier store, would remain if a takeover is completed, with space above and behind on King Street to be developed.

Is Your Old Suite
Looking a little tired and worn???
• 35 Years Experience
• All Work Guaranteed
• 1000's of Fabrics
• Prompt Efficent Service
• Discount for OAP's
FULL RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICE

Sofa Style
01384 892018
www.sofastyleupholstery.co.uk

HANDY DIY
01384 591300
www.HandyDIYshop.co.uk

NOW OPEN
22 Grange Road, Stourbridge DY9 7LE
FOR ALL YOUR DIY AND HOME IMPROVEMENT NEEDS
handydiy@outlook.com

Plane crash was caused by sudden gust of wind

A SUDDEN gust of wind caused a light aircraft to smash into a hedge and career across a road near Kingswinford, an investigation has found.

The plane was coming in to land at Halfpenny Green Airport when a vicious tailwind resulted in it touching down more than halfway along the runway, meaning the 73-year-old pilot was unable to stop in time.

He made a last-ditch attempt to abort the landing but after getting off the ground the plane's wing dipped, causing it to strike a boundary hedge, before crossing a road and coming to a rest in a field. A wing was torn from the plane on impact but both the pilot and an elderly passenger were able to clamber out of the wreckage with only minor injuries.

An investigation into the crash on November 16 last year revealed weather conditions worsened after the Cherokee Warrior II plane took off from Halfpenny Green, with the pilot, who had more than 900 hours of flying experience, forced to contend with low cloud and rain, resulting in reduced visibility. A wet runway made it more difficult to slow down.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch said weather reports had warned of changes in wind directions and gusts of more than 25mph. It said pilots are reminded to 'consider the meteorological situation before commencing a flight'.

Hall is offering More Tea Vicar

A UKELELE band will serenade visitors when a village near Stourbridge holds its next fundraising event to pay for repairs to a church wall.

More Tea Vicar is the name of the event on the lawn at Enville Hall on Sunday, July 8, to help pay for the churchyard work at St Mary's in Enville, near Kinver.

The event will cost £15 per person to include sandwiches, tea and cake, plus performances from the Got To Sing pop choir and Kinver's ukelele band.

Recently Enville Estate raised more than well over £2,000 in aid of the building project via a gardens open day, after the church wall collapsed onto the main Stourbridge to Bridgnorth road.

Wild West fayre

A 'Wild West' Summer Fayre is being held to raise money for church funds at St Peter's Church in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, on May 26, from 10.30am until 2pm. It features a raffle, stalls, tombola and refreshments.

Pair stepped out for Epilepsy Action

Fundraiser Tina Lilly and Mandy Aldridge

A CRADLEY Heath woman who tackled Snowdon in memory of a friend and then took on the Dudley Trail has raise more than £600 for Epilepsy Action.

Tina Lilly, aged 40, climbed Mount Snowdon on April 26 in memory of Susan Hubble, who was secretary for amateur dramatics group Startime Variety. She died in February after an epileptic seizure. Tina followed her mountain venture by joining fellow Startime Variety member Mandy Aldridge, 52, of Rowley Regis, for the 12-mile Dudley Trail on May 6

Money raised from Snowdon and the Dudley Trail will be donated to Epilepsy Action. The pair had originally set out to raise £200 for the charity but have tripled that with donations still rolling in.

Ms Lilly said: "Our friend and Startime Variety secretary Susan passed away at the age of 58 earlier this year, so we thought we would get fundraising in her memory. We will be raising funds for Epilepsy Action.

"My Snowdon climb went really well. It took me around five and a half hours, which I am very pleased with as I expected to complete the climb in around seven hours .As part of Startime Variety we put on shows to raise money for local charities, so we really wanted to do something in Susan's memory.

Now Tina and Mandy are planning to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa next year.

To support Tina and Mandy in their fundraising efforts,visit just giving. com/crowdfunding/tina-lilly

Around 1,600 people trekked the five routes of six, nine, 12, 20 and 28 miles at the 38th annual Dudley Trail.

108-year-old Albert has an appetite for life

DURING his 90s he was still going to the gym and a keen world traveller – visiting places such as Tobago and Florida.

And life for Albert Taylor, from Kingswinford, Dudley, is showing no signs of slowing down – despite him having just celebrated his 108th birthday with family and friends.

The key to his long and happy life, says his son Robert, is his cheery outlook and one of his biggest loves – food.

Albert, whose birthday was on May 4, is now the fifth oldest man in the UK.

Robert, aged 73, says his father's daily breakfast of porridge, honey and blueberries with poached egg on toast and smoked trout is what keeps him fit and well.

Robert, who lives in Shropshire, said: "He is still very outgoing, still has a great sense of humour and, more than anything, he loves his food.

"He puts his age down to Scott's Porage Oats. Every morning he has porridge with honey and blueberries followed by poached egg on toast with smoked trout on the side with two cups of tea.

"For lunch he typically has a ham salad sandwich and for tea cod with a sauce and minted potatoes.

"He has been looked after for around the last 30 years since my mother passed away. All of his close friends think the absolute world of him. They say they have never met such a kind and giving man."

Toolmaker

Albert, who has lived in Dudley for 55 years, started working life as a toolmaker at the age of just 15.

He was employed in the Stourbridge and Worcester areas and kept working until his early70s.

Robert said: "He was still going to keep-fit classes in his 90s and was the only male in the class. He is very independent and has a tremendous sense of character.

"Dad has always been very careful in looking after himself and he makes sure everything he does is healthy.

"I have never seen him wake up melancholy even though he is frail. He always has a positive outlook on life. I am exceptionally proud of him because of his inner strength."

Albert Taylor looks at his message from the Queen with his son Robert and neighbour Jean Shipley

Prayer meeting to give thanks at Priory

CHRISTIANS will join together in Dudley to pray and give thanks for all who live and work in the borough.

Worshippers from several Christian denominations will meet in the ruins of Dudley Priory on Sunday from 2.30pm until 4pm for the prayers.

The event marks Pentecost, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the holy spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ.

It is often considered the birthday of the Christian church and the start of the church's mission in the world. There will be a short service and prayers, led by the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, and other local church leaders.

Mr Usher said: "Dudley Priory was originally a place of Christian prayer and is a perfect location for us to gather together."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cafe proposed at town centre shop

SIX jobs will be created after planning chiefs in Dudley gave the green light to transform a former Stourbridge town centre shop into a cafe.

Dudley Council's planners have approved the application for the vacant ground floor premises in Coventry Street.

It is proposed that the cafe will employ four full-time members of staff and two part-time staff.

The plans include a bar/counter area to the front of the shop, with a seating area providing 24 covers, with a kitchen and toilet to the rear of the premises.

On your marks, get ready...Po!

PO, one of TV's Teletubbies, joins the Barnardo's Big Toddle at Dudley Zoo next month.

Po, the red Teletubby from the hit CBeebies show, will join in the fun on June 12 – the first day of Barnardo's annual sponsored walk for under-fives.

The event, one of the biggest organised toddles in the UK, also runs at the Castle Hill attraction on June 13.

Admission is £7.50 for all aged over-five but free for younger children, and will include refreshments and entertainment. To register visit www.bigtoddle.uk or call 0800 008 7005.

Comic trio help dementia action

AN award-winning comedy trio will give a tailor-made performance as part of activities to mark Dementia Action Week.

The Fizzogs will perform to people with dementia and their carers, friends and families at the Brett Young Dementia Gateway, Dudley, on May 22. The performance is one of a number of activities to celebrate the national campaign between May 21 and May 27. Dudley Council runs two dementia gateways, the Brett Young Centre, in Halesowen, and the Crystal Gateway in Brierley Hill.

Apartments move for bungalows site

PLANS to build 23 apartments in Kinver have been lodged with South Staffordshire District Council.

The proposal includes the demolition of existing bungalows on land at The Burgesses, in Kinver, to build a three-storey residential building containing one-bedroom flats.

The application also includes a communal lounge and 10 car parking spaces to the rear of the new building.

ADVERTISEMENT

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

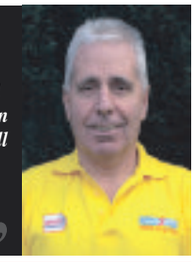
Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing?
If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Stourbridge & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.



"Cloudy2Clear GUARANTEE All Customers That An Average Quote Will Take No Longer Than 20 MINS!!!"

Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader

All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118

www.cloudy2clear.com

Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Mr Men sexist? Just don't talk wet

ANOTHER week, and another burning issue grips the political class. While you might think rising crime, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Brexit would be enough to keep them occupied, but for some reason the Government has decided to declare war on wet wipes.

Now maybe I'm in a minority, but of all the issues I feel strongly about, wet wipes fall pretty low down the list. Occasionally useful on a hot day after putting on sun cream, but overall I would say they do not form a major part of my life.

It seems the problem is that wet wipes are made of plastic, and we all now know that plastic is A Very Bad Thing.

But, at the risk of departing from the received wisdom of the day, the real problem is not the use of plastics, but today's throwaway society. Children who change their mobile phones every year, replacing perfectly serviceable television sets to get the latest gimmicks, the endless updating of computer systems for no significant benefits. All this generates vast amounts of waste, and the irony is it probably the people who consider themselves the most environmentally aware who are responsible.

Walk around your high street, and the chances are you will see "rent-to-buy" shops urging people on low incomes to buy needless gadgets they neither need nor can afford. Watch the series Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away about High Court bailiffs, and you will see virtually every house they visit has a huge, flat-screen TV. And what for? To see Jeremy Kyle in high-definition?

Of course, this is great news for electronics manufacturers in the Far East, but bad news for the engineers and repairmen in this country who used to earn a crust keeping these things working.

But if we really want to protect the planet, we need to get back to making things to last, and maintaining them rather than replacing them at the whims of fashion. And if that means paying a little bit extra to begin with, it will almost certainly save money over the long term.

And it will make a much bigger difference than banning wet wipes.

■■■

AND, not to be outdone in the petty meddling stakes, shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry – also known as Lady Nugee – has said Mr Men and Little Miss books are "sexist".

Do these people never take a day off? They are books for little children who don't even know what "sexism" is.

I do wonder which character Miss Thornberry would be. Little Miss Busy-Body, perhaps?

Adele gets that sinking feeling as she hits the big 3-0

Car Share – Peter Kay's unscripted version of the sitcom showed its true genius

Splashing out – Adele celebrated her 30th with a Titanic-themed birthday party

Love's Labour's lost – Ex-MP and actress Glenda Jackson out of favour with her party

Kay's simple sitcom is just streets ahead

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

CONSPIRACY corner. After much research, authorities in Egypt have announced that there is no secret chamber behind the 3,000-year-old wall of Tutankhamen's tomb. Which as every conspiracy theorist knows, means there is.

I LOVED this week's unscripted edition of Car Share (BBC1). I take a wee bit of pride in being one of the first hacks to recognise the brilliance of Peter Kay's creation. Car Share launched in April 2015 and this column instantly hailed it as "clever, lovely, life-affirming stuff." It's just two people sharing a car. As so often in comedy, the simplest ideas are the best.

THE blog version of this column sometimes reminds me of another TV gem, Early Doors. A loyal bunch of customers hang around waiting for the pub (blog) to open. Then they all rush inside and complain about what a crap pub (blog) it is.

DOES she have no brains, no compassion or is she simply badly advised? Adele's choice of a Titanic-themed party for her 30th birthday, with guests dancing in life jackets, was beyond understanding. If any of those guests die by drowning, heaven forbid, in their final moments they will certainly remember that party.

AH, oui. Les événements de soixante-huite. It was fifty years ago today that the youth of Paris rose against their government. I was there. Well, sort of. I was actually there a few weeks later on a school trip being bussed across Paris. The guide pointed out that all the freshly resurfaced streets had once been cobbled. But the rioters tore up the cobblestones to chuck at the police, hence the asphalt. I would like to claim that we Leamington College lads were gripped by the story of a national trauma so violent and so raw that Parisians simply called it les événements, the events. But we were not. We were transfixed by the guy in the open convertible on the other side of the coach. He was driving with a cigarette hanging expertly from his lip, one hand on the steering wheel, the other resting under the miniskirt of his beautiful and adoring girlfriend. You didn't see that sort of thing in Leamington Spa.

SOME of the self-proclaimed Maoists, Trotskyists, anarchists and other revolutionaries who swarmed onto the streets of Paris 50 years ago later swapped their combat jackets for smart suits to become well-paid politicians and officials across Europe. This will surprise you only if you have never read Animal Farm.

I HAVE occasionally suggested that , as the Left and Right of politics get ever more rabid and unelectable, we may live to see a Labour-Conservative coalition government. In an interview, the former Labour MP Glenda Jackson asks: "What party is Jeremy (Corbyn) leading? It's not a party I know." She reckons neither of the two main parties could win an election and "we're on course for some sort of combined government." Watch this space.

THE Quakers seem to be moving away from God. According to research, 14 per cent of them are atheists while 43 per cent are "unable to profess a belief in God." There is talk of dropping mention of God from the guidance notes for Quaker meetings. By coincidence, a new report by the British Journal of General Practice suggests that family doctors, as we used to call them, are being used as "new clergy" by people who are not ill but want something to "give meaning and purpose to life." And there's the snag. The moment you start looking for meaning and purpose, or any sense of created order or fairness in life, you are heading for deep disappointment. Better by far to share a room with a few kindly Quakers, who are excellent listeners and make a damn fine pot of tea.

A READER claims there is no longer a majority in favour of Brexit because moods have changed and the 2016 Referendum was "a long time ago." This is how fake news begins. The vote was a long time ago. Anyway, it wasn't binding on the Government. In fact, did the Referendum ever really happen? After all, we Brexiters are all old, dim and a bit forgetful. . .

THE wonders of food science. How on earth do the boffins produce a yoghurt containing zero fat? Part of the answer may lie in the filling process. I've just opened a yoghurt pot which was barely half full. You may expect some settlement in the packet when it's cornflakes, washing powder or porridge oats, but yoghurt, for heaven's sake? Is it easier to produce a yoghurt containing zero per cent fat if the pot is only 50 per cent full in the first place?

STILL on food, a sudden rise in the price of vanilla is reportedly forcing some ice-cream makers to consider dropping the flavour from their range. I am sure we will struggle by. I can't be the only customer who thinks vanilla is what food tastes of if it doesn't taste of anything else.

TALKING POINT

Pregnant pause is must for smokers

I MUST admit I am not, and have never been, a smoker. Maybe something to do with the fact that my dad did constantly and died young of a heart attack.

Yes he had been told by the doctors to give it up but he just said at the time "What do the doctors know?" Well obviously a lot more than he did.

My daughter and daughters-in-law were very good – although one in fact has never been a smoker – and followed advice to not smoke when they were pregnant .

After all, smoking is a choice decision and your unborn baby does not have that choice, so you have to make the right decision for them.

Good advice, but how many times do you see mums-to-be walking along proudly pushing out their stomachs with a fag in hand or, just as bad, the prospective dad (at least I presume that's what he is) breathing out cigarette fumes all over her.

So even if she has wisely taken the decision to quit for those important months she and the baby are still at risk. Passive smoking can be almost as dangerous.

Our children are so precious and we would surely do everything we can to protect them.

Admittedly some things are out of our hands to an extent – certain illnesses, bullying at school, friendship fall-outs etc, although of course we would do everything we can to prevent it or deal with the situation as best possible.

I cannot pretend that my children – well, two of them – did not smoke but they did not do it in the house and never during pregnancy or in front of the babies/children. Surely that is the responsible attitude.

Recently, while walking along Wolverhampton's main street, I saw not one but two moms leaning over their babies in the prams with a fag in their mouths. Cigarette ash in your buggy . . . errm, very healthy.

And how many times do you see on television children who are suffering from some awful illness.

Probably, like me, you secretly cross your fingers and think please, there but for the grace of God etc.

But how would you feel if your thoughtlessness or selfish attitude was to blame for one of those illnesses?

I know that when they are adults your children have to make their own decision as it is out of your control but not while they are young and need your guidance.

Give your child the best start in life. If you must smoke, do it away from them – and most definitely not in pregnancy!

SUE ATTWATER

What about the dangerous cyclists?

HAVING read the story in The Chronicle May 3 concerning the safe distance the West Midlands Police Road Harm Reduction Unit stipulates a vehicle should allow when overtaking a cyclist, this raises a question. When there are parked cars/vans along both sides of the road and there is traffic in both directions, especially on narrow roads, how are vehicles supposed to overtake without either going along at the same speed as the cyclist or risking running into oncoming traffic?"

I notice there is no mention of cyclists who weave about from side to side while going along. Or those that weave in and out of traffic in order to get to the front of the queue at traffic lights in order to either turn left against the lights or to race off as soon as the lights change, obstructing the vehicles behind who then cannot get past.

I also note there is no mention of those cyclists who persistently cycle on the footpath, even in full cycle gear, putting pedestrians at risk and who seem to think that said pedestrians should move out of their way. This is especially dangerous because of all the cars and vans that are parked across the footpath, in a lot of instances leaving no more space than that which allows a single person to struggle to get by.

Since a large number of these are on double yellow lines why is it neither the council or the police are interested in doing anything about it, since these situations affect far more people than the number of cyclists that are about.

Is it not about time that the authorities put their priorities in order?

MR H SMITH
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice:
Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can.
The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk.
If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ipso. For press freedom with responsibility

If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Get rid of the House of Lords

IT'S not becoming any easier trying to leave the European Union, it is fraught with pitfalls, obstacles, failures and mistakes.

To leave the EU requires persistence and mental toughness, to overcome these problems our leaders must grow a thick skin in pursuit of our freedom voted for in 2016, even more so now that the House of Lords are undermining our PM.

These privileged remoaners must be stopped in their tracks, we did not vote to have our decision overturned by another body of unelected peers who are out of touch with us leavers who gave our Government mandate to rid us of the EU club.

The Lords are arrogant trying it on over the will of the people and a sovereign parliament.

We need a vote to close down the Lords once and for all.

MR R F GOODALL
Wordsley

Time to think again about Hippodrome

NOW that Dudley's latest local election results have resulted in no overall control, it's time that the Labour and Tory councillors started listening to the people they represent.

In other words saving Dudley Hippodrome instead of coming up with plans to demolish this building.

Just think councillors,you have this iconic building, Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum all on the gateway entrance to Dudley town.

For once start being positive about this building and give it the funding it deserves instead of following the hidden agenda that you appear to have.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

Tour shows need for helmets

DID you watch ITV 4 coverage of the 'Tour de Yorkshire'? How can people who claim that football is the most popular sport say that when you look at the numbers who were watching the 'tour' for free?

It was brilliant. The sun helped to make the viewing of the scenery so good too.

And how many footballers fall down and almost cry for assistance. Did you notice how many cyclists crashed, yet got back on their bikes to finish the race? On a very hilly course!

One of the riders in the women's 'Tour de Yorkshire' crashed, and broke her helmet into four piece. Yet she was just taken to hospital for a check-up, according to the race commentators.

And people say that the wearing of such helmets should not be made compulsory!

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

HBclub
HAIRCLUB

Full Colour Eyebrow Wax Cut & Blow dry Short Hair £35	Adult Cut £6	Full head foils Toner Cut & Blow dry Short Hair £50
Eyebrow Waxing or Threading £3	Regrowth £10	Child Cut £6
Skin Fade £12	Full Colour (Short) £15	10 Foils £10

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
Conditions Apply

Unit L20, Lower Mall (Next to Poundland)
Merry Hill Centre, Brierley Hill DY5 1SH.

CONTEMPORARY & ELEGANT
Bi-fold doors
Fitted Aluminium or uPVC
From £1800 fitted

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

Full Range of the Latest Composite Doors

From £550 fitted

ENTERPRISE GLASS & GLAZING Ltd
of Brierley Hill

Enterprise Glass and Glazing Ltd are based in the Brierley Hill area of the West Midlands and since the early 1980's have built a reputation as a leading installer of quality windows, conservatories and doors direct to the public.

MISTED UNITS?
Replacements,
Glass cut to size...
Telephone today
Free Quotation
01384 571217

Design & Service You Can Trust!

Find us at: Vine Street, Brierley Hill DY5 1JE Telephone: 01384 571217 and talk to us today
Fax: 01384 571427 Email: sales@enterpriseglazing.co.uk www.enterpriseglazing.co.uk

Spring SPECIALS

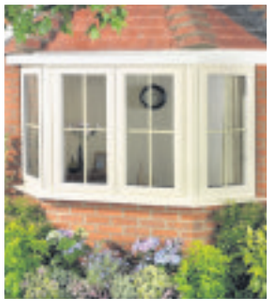
- Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
- Yale Locking Systems
- Swish Window & Door Systems
- Payment On Completion
- Full 10 Year Guarantee
- No Deposit Required

Call us NOW

Make the right choice for your new windows, conservatories, orangeries and porches.

Carera do not use high pressure salesmen, it has had the same owner since it opened in 1989.
Call them now for your **FREE** no obligation quotations. Our visit takes approximately 20-30 minutes

Visit our large beautiful showroom with all products on display for a warm welcome



Proud to have worked with

WINDOWS · DOORS · PORCHES · ORANGERIES · CONSERVATORIES

CARERA WINDOWS LTD
The Recommended Company

24, Junction Rd, Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4YJ
Telephone: **01384 442 490**
www.carerawindows.co.uk

Yale

FENSA Registered Company

Secured by Design

Blooming lovely events are boost for charities

THOUSANDS of pounds were raised for charities and other good causes when bluebell woods and landscaped gardens near Stourbridge were opened to the public.

More than £2,000 was raised when the wood at Keeper's Cottage, Stourton, was opened over the bank holiday weekend as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS). It is the third year the woods have been opened.

Owner Peter Brookes said: "We had a great turnout – more than 400 people over the two days. We raised £2,166 for the National Garden Scheme – not bad for a simple bluebell wood!"

During the past two years more than 1,200 people have visited Greensforge Lane to walk through the wood, owned by Peter and wife Jenny, and enjoy teas and homemade cakes.

Over the past two years Peter and Jenny had already raised more than £4,000 for the NGS. The charity has donated millions to charity in 2018, including £500,000 each to Macmillan, Marie Curie and Hospice UK.

Zac Brookes, 15, of Keeper's Cottage, admires the bluebells in the wood

Rev Martin Soar, Stephen Morley and Rev Deborah Walton at Enville Hall

Hall

A number of other gardens across the country were open over the weekend as part of the NGS.

Meanwhile, the glorious sunshine also brought out more thant a thousand people to see one of the finest ornamental gardens in the country on a rare open day.

The grounds of Enville Hall, near Kinver, were looking their best with daffodils in bloom alongside spring blossoms. Visitors strolled paths bordered by flower beds and took a stroll around the lake, follies and fountains.

Owners Peter and Diana Williams opened up their home to raise funds for St Mary's Church in the village. The money will go towards restoring the church's retaining wall which collapsed onto the A458.

They had hoped to raise £1,000 but the event brought in more than double that from cake and plant sales alone.

Peter's wife Diana was born at Enville Hall and both have lived at the estate, which dates back to the 1530s, for almost 20 years.

Rev Martin Soar, of St Mary's, said he was extremely grateful to the couple and to the visitors. The Williams have opened the grounds before to help the church when two years ago £3,000 was raised towards a new organ when almost 400 visited.

HagleyKitchens

Beautiful Kitchens, Bathrooms and Bedrooms, designed with imagination and fitted with care

"A really handsome Kitchen...

...beautiful Bosch appliances and a super 'Boiling-water Tap' completed on time without any problems at all" Pauline Burgess, *Droitwich*

"Hagley Kitchens took care of everything in our fantastically designed modern kitchen... ...Graham and his team made everything simple." Pam & Steve Hughes, *Rowley Regis*

"Graham gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." Danni & Martin Walters, *Hasbury*

"Hagley Kitchens created the kitchen we have always dreamed of, and his team completed the installation and tiling to a perfect finish... Thank You." Wayne & Julie, *Wordsley*

"Nothing was too much trouble" Doreen Coley - *Hayley Green*

Call Graham Edmonds for your 'FREE', no obligation new Hagley Kitchen's design 07776 207596

Black Country Made over 40 Years of Happy Customers

Guaranteed unbeatable on price

www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

Make the RIGHT decision this Spring and give RYDALE a ring...

RYDALE UNIQUE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

RYDALE SPRING SALE

Valeting Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways valeting available.

Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards

Order a conservatory or full house of windows and you will get a full valeting service on your guttering or windows or conservatory totally FREE.

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available

CELEBRATING Our 33rd ANNIVERSARY 2018

Guardian Warm Roof

Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.

Supply only Available to the trade on all our products

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE

Rydale take security very seriously Guaranteed high security on ALL products

Full details on request

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON MAY INSTALLATIONS

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS

Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

Garden aims to fill up your senses

PEOPLE with learning disabilities can enjoy a new sensory garden at the Unicorn Centre in Amblecote.

The centre is used by people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and complex health needs – and it is hoped the garden will give visitors the chance to safely explore outdoor spaces.

Work to develop the wheelchair-friendly garden began last year.

Different materials, trees, shrubs and plants have been included to stimulate senses throughout the year through colour, texture and smell – and all weather awnings have been fitted to provide shade and shelter in all weathers.

The garden includes a seating area using environmentally friendly hardwood furniture, soft lighting, outdoor speakers and sensory accessories such as garden bells, solar chimes, windsocks and colourful pinwheels. Raised flowerbeds will give people the opportunity to try their hand at gardening.

Matt Bowsher, chief officer for adult social care, said: "We are always looking to build strong relationships with the local community, working closely with schools and other agencies.

"We are hopeful that the garden will become a shared resource where people can come together and share in the joy of gardening."

Pub celebrates by holding beer festival

THE owners of a Stourbridge real ale pub are celebrating their fourth year there with a five-day beer festival over the long Bank Holiday weekend.

The festival at the Waggon and Horses pub in Worcester Street will be running from Thursday to Monday, May 24 to 28.

There will also be live music in the beer garden at the rear each day.

New recording studio to focus on offering a music alternative

A NEW recording studio with rehearsal rooms and a gig venue has opened its doors in Stourbridge.

The Howling Rooms Studio marked its official opening with a launch party featuring an eclectic mix of live electronic music, from sludge metal to experimental pop.

Owner and founder, Luke Fewtrell-Bowers, opened the venue as he thought the town needed a place to offer something different for gig-goers – who fancy a challenge when it comes to their music tastes.

He said: "Stourbridge has been lucky over the past few years to have a really great underground music scene, especially with the promotion collective Carnage Club bringing bands to the area, whom I have been involved with in the past.

"But with music venues in the area moving away from the loud and experimental, it's getting harder to find venues to put on these kinds of bands in the Black Country, let alone the town of Stourbridge.

Heritage

"Stourbridge has a rich musical heritage for churning out bands who dare to be different, take Ned's Atomic Dustbin and Pop Will Eat Itself for example.

"We must have a place in the area where we can champion that and offer a place to express that creativity, which is why we will put on a host of live events hosting UK and also local talent."

Luke and the Howling Rooms are also looking to support local talent wanting to get started in the industry. There are also plans for a podcast which will feature interviews, music and features on acts. Call Luke on 07757 083525 or email howlingrooms@gmail.com.

Classic conservatoire gig for Sir Lenny

SIR Lenny Henry took to the stage to narrate Peter and the Wolf in a special concert held in Birmingham aimed at introducing youngsters to classical music.

The Dudley-born actor, writer, comedian and charity campaigner appeared at Birmingham City University's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to narrate Sergei Prokofiev's classic.

Sir Lenny, who is the chancellor of Birmingham City University, appeared alongside the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Pops Orchestra, playing the various characters in the performance.

Alongside Peter and the Wolf, the orchestra transported the audience to 'a galaxy far, far away' with music from the original Star Wars film trilogy.

Conducted by Chris Houlding, the musicians also conjured images of darting through the skyscrapers of New York with Danny Elfman's Spider-Man theme, and then whisked them into the domain of cowboys, cowgirls and the American West with Hoe-Down by Aaron Copland from the 1942 ballet Rode'.

Sir Lenny said: "Being the Chancellor of Birmingham City University is a great gig. Not only do I get to mingle with all the fantastic students and see first-hand how our research is transforming lives, they also let me take centre stage at our new £57 million Royal Birmingham Conservatoire."

Sir Lenny Henry with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Pops Orchestra

Diesel days at the SVR heritage line

THE Severn Valley Railway is preparing to host the UK's largest diesel locomotive celebration.

The Spring Diesel Festival will be taking place from today (Thursday) to Saturday.

It brings together an eclectic mix of heritage and mainline diesel locomotives of all shapes and sizes from all across the country.

The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley will host the Thursday Social from 7pm tonight, an evening of music, food and drink with local band One Tree Canyon and the SVR's Hobsons Real Ale Bar. Entry is free with a Spring Diesel Festival Thursday Rover ticket, including journey to and from Highley.

Over the weekend there will be 12 visiting locomotives from three Class 20 engines dating from the 1950s and '60s to a Class 88 locomotive, unveiled in 2016.

AJL DESIGN

Kitchens to suit all budgets

Over 25 years of experience in the design & installation of quality kitchen furniture

AJL Design is celebrating its 25th Anniversary

Visit our showroom we have 12 styles of kitchens on display

01384 443 432 | ajldesign.co.uk

155 Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge

CALL IN NOW and take advantage of our ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

We offer a door replacement service.

but why settle for a re-vamp when you could have a brand new kitchen for a similar price.

Call us for a quote on both options!

FINANCE* OPTIONS AVAILABLE

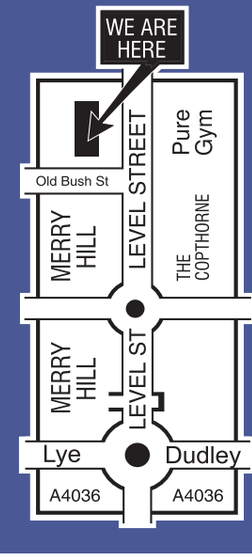
Get this brand new Kitchen for £1999

The price you pay includes baseunits, wall units, drawer pack, 40mm laminated worktops, handles, soft close hinges, plinth, cornice, pelmet and VAT. As illustrated above. Excludes Sink, tap, fitting and all appliances.

£1999

OPEN
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat - 10am - 5.00pm.
Thursday 10am - 7.00pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Find us next to Avanti



Call in to see ex-showroom display furniture and appliances at fantastic prices

Kitchen Clearance Centre

Make sure you compare our prices before you purchase elsewhere!

Old Bush Street, off Level Street, Merry Hill DY5 1UA. Tel: 01384 262303

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi dyson Elgento Ewbank itek KENWOOD

MANY MORE OFFERS IN STORE

16 INCH STAND FANS ONLY £15 LIMITED STOCK

IRONS
FROM £10

STEAM GENERATORS
FROM £20

YONANAS FROZEN DESSERT MAKER
ONLY £20

ICE MACHINE
ONLY £75

JUICER
ONLY £30

BAGLESS VACUUM
FROM £15

CORDLESS MULTI VAC
ONLY £60

CARPET WASHER
FROM £40

BAGLESS UPRIGHT
FROM £25

SWAN FRIDGES
FROM £150

SWAN TOASTERS
FROM £10

SWAN KETTLES
FROM £10

SWAN MICROWAVES
FROM £25

SWAN SENSOR BINS
ONLY £25

Swan Retro **AVAILABLE IN ALL COLOURS**

CANISTERS
FROM £10

MICROWAVES
FROM £25

KETTLES
FROM £10

TOASTERS
FROM £10

NON STICK SAUCEPANS
FROM £30

KNIFE BLOCKS
FROM £10

TOWER **GOLD RANGE AVAILABLE IN BLACK AND WHITE**

www.kettleandtoasterman.co.uk

ALL OFFERS AVAILABLE ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT ONLY

We specialise in finding you the best deals available on daily basis. We stock electrical and other amazing retail products at up to 90% off the normal retail selling price.

SH

Kettle and Toaster Man

TRADE WAREHOUSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Unit 2C, Albion Works, Moor St., Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3SZ

Tel: 01384 483 286

Est. Over 20 Years * OPEN: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Offers expire 21st May, 2018. T&C's apply

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi dyson Elgento Ewbank itek KENWOOD

Foodbanks give out 120,000 crisis packs

ALMOST 120,000 emergency food parcels have been handed out by foodbanks in the West Midlands in 12 months as the number of people needing help continues to rise.

Latest figures from the Trussell Trust showed its network of food banks which includes sites in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest, remain busy helping families that are struggling to make ends meet.

A total of 1,332,952 three-day emergency food supplies were handed out to people in crisis across the UK between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018 – a 13 per increase on the previous year and a record number for the charity.

While in the West Midlands, 119,946 food parcels were given out during the 12 month period – a rise of eight per cent on 2016/17.

The figures includes supplies handed out by volunteers at food banks in Quinton and Oldbury, Walsall North, Great Barr, Smethwick, Cannoc, Rugeley and Kidderminster.

The Trussell Trust said debt accounted for an increasing percentage of people being referred to a food bank. The statistics show essential costs of housing and utility bills are also causing families to seek help. The other main referral reasons in 2017/18 were benefit delays and benefit changes.

Chloe selling bows to help beat cancer

Chloe Evans raises funds for charities in her father's memory

AN aspiring dancer is marking the fifth anniversary of her father's death by raising funds for a cancer charity.

Chloe Evans, from Sedgley, has raised funds for Bowel Cancer UK and Beating Bowel Cancer since losing her dad, Wayne, to the disease in 2013, aged 42.

The 20-year-old has raised almost £8,000 and now wants to reach her fundraising target of £10,000 with her annual 'Wear a Bow Day' on May 18.

Chloe's father was diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer when she was 13-years-old and he died 17 months afterwards. She is now determined to make more people aware of bowel cancer and raise much-needed funds for the cause.

She said: "Every year we hold a 'Wear a Bow Day' on the date of my dad's passing. Our dad was a family man and we were a very close family of four, so myself, my mum and sister do all we can to keep each other going and keep his memory alive." Go to justgiving.com/fundraising/chloes-bows

MP backs campaign on energy firm bills

AN MP has backed a campaign by Citizens Advice to tackle the 'excess' profits made by energy companies. Statistics obtained by Citizens Advice claim energy companies are making profits of £305 per household in the West Midlands.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "It's terrible that families are paying an average of £305 straight on to the profits of energy companies. That's why I am backing this campaign to make sure hard working people in the Black Country aren't footing the bill for these energy companies."

"Lots of families in the Black Country are struggling to make ends meet. Wages here are below the national average and bills keep going up with energy bills rocketing."

The Labour MP was visiting the town's new Citizens Advice centre in Stone Street last Friday to meet chief executive Laura Thomas. The bureau in Dudley helped 17,000 people last year, helped prevent 600 losing their homes and claim £15 million in benefits they were entitled to.

Early-bird tickets for family festival fundraiser snapped up

THOUSANDS of people have got their hands on early-bird tickets to a family festival.

SummerFest will take over the grounds of Himley Hall on July 15, in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Discounted tickets were available until last week with thousands of festival-goers snapping them up over the long weekend. Some will be travelling from as far as Lancashire for the popular event.

A full day of music will take place on the Signal 107 main stage with sets from X Factor stars Reggie N Bollie, Matt Terry and soul star Lemar.

Other attractions include fairground rides, classic car show, food festival, cocktail bar, beer tent, prince and princess meet and greet, and family activities, from 10am to 5pm. Laura Millard, community engagement officer at the hospice, said: "We want this to be a fantastic community occasion that we can all look back on fondly for many years to come.

Tickets are available at £17.50 for over 14s, while younger children get in free. To book, call 01384 377778 or visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/summerfest-2018

Rare chance to visit Earl's 'secret' garden

VISITORS can walk in the footsteps of the rich and famous when private gardens near Dudley open for a rare viewing. People can take a tour around the Earl of Dudley's Memory Garden at Himley Hall, created as a tribute to previous earls and their loved ones.

The gardens, near to St Michael's and All Angels Church, next to the Dudley Council-owned mansion, are seldom open to the public. Tributes include those to Edwardian actress Gertie Millar, who was the second wife of the second earl. It's also the last resting place of the fourth earl and his wife, film star Maureen Swanson.

There is a small charge to enter the Memory Garden, open 11am until 4pm on June 16 and 1pm until 3.30pm on June 17. See www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk

4 DAY BONUS
BUY... THU & FRI 10AM-5.30PM. SAT CLOSED. SUN 11AM-5PM. MON 10AM-5.30PM.
EXTRA 10% OFF
ALL STOCK MARKED WITH A GREEN DOT
WILLIAM & SONS
www.williamandsons.co.uk
Level Street • Merry Hill • Brierley Hill • Dudley, West Midlands DY5 1UA
Tel: 01384 77444 E-mail: sales@williamandsons.co.uk
THE GREAT £628,000 STORE CLOSING SALE
EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD BEFORE WE CLOSE THE DOORS FOREVER!
NAOMI CORNER GROUP WAS £1299 NOW £800 EXTRA 10% OFF £720
SOFTNORD LEXINGTON CONTEMPORARY CHAISE SOFA WAS £1459 NOW £920 EXTRA 10% OFF £828
HARRISON BED TAILOR 135CM LUXURY DRW DIVAN SET INC. HEADBOARD WAS £2589 NOW £1616 EXTRA 10% OFF £1454
BALMORAL OAK TALL DISPLAY CABINET WAS £1149 NOW £640 EXTRA 10% OFF £576
ESSENTIALS LEWIS BLACK COFFEE TABLE WAS £339 NOW £214 – LIMITED STOCKS EXTRA 10% OFF £193
BARDI PORTOFINO REAL ITALIAN LEATHER 3 SEATER SOFA, CHAIR & POWER CHAIR WAS £4789 NOW £2920 EXTRA 10% OFF £2628
KNUTSFORD SQUARE DINING TABLE & 2 CHAIRS WAS £519 NOW £341 EXTRA 10% OFF £307
EXPRESS 4 YOU 135CM 2 DOOR SLIDER ROBE (1 MIRROR) WAS £599 NOW £392 EXTRA 10% OFF £353
HTL FABRIZA LARGE & SMALL SOFAS PLUS CHAIR ALL POWER RECLINERS WAS £3879 NOW £2472 EXTRA 10% OFF £2225
ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
© LSC 2018

Merger of region's mental health bodies is called off

A SHAKE-UP of mental health services in the Black Country and Birmingham, aimed at saving £7 million a year, has been cancelled at the eleventh hour.

The plan was to merge Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

Under the project called Transforming Care Together (TCT), the partnership was to begin last December. But a statement on the scheme's website said it was no longer going ahead.

In the statement, the decision not to go-ahead was down to 'clinical concerns' after recent NHS guidance said models of care should fit geographical areas, as well as fears over finances.

It said: "The trust boards are very much aware and extremely appreciative of the considerable work that staff have put into TCT and are determined to learn as much as possible from the process and continue to share good practice."

Approved

The idea was thought up in 2015 and a business case was approved by board members in the following year.

By creating a single provider of mental health, it was aimed at improving care and providing a better choice of services across the region. It was said combining work would enable the development of clinical services including research, while also resulting in a more efficient use of resources.

The statement published on the cancellation said: "The three boards have been spending time reviewing the proposals in light of a number of issues arising. The boards of the three trusts have agreed the decision not to proceed." But it did say a 'collaborative' approach across the region should be 'developed further'.

It's a close shave for fundraiser Sam

SODA's Sam Billingham had her hair shaved off by Georgina Dalby to help survivors of domestic abuse

A DOMESTIC abuse survivor has had her head shaved to raise cash in order to spread awareness.

Sam Billingham, who runs support group SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse), had her blonde locks sheared in front of supporters. The 38-year-old is now sporting a close-cropped look.

Sam said she hopes the shave will help raise cash and awareness of domestic abuse. Her father John took the first cut before Georgie Dalby of Blaze Hair salon shaved off the rest of Sam's hair. Sam, who won the Fresh Start prize at the E&S's Great Big Thank You Awards, said: "It does feel very strange – my 12-year-old daughter keeps referring to me as 'Eleven', the character from Stranger Things.

"People kept telling me I was brave to have my hair cut off. But to me, being brave is surviving an abusive relationship."

The money raised on the evening – dubbed SODA Sam's Shindig – will now go towards SODA Bag of Life campaign, offering essentials for those who need to move to a safe house. The night, at the Hare and Hounds in Wollescote, also featured a raffle, a DJ set and a guest appearance by Megan Reece of The Voice. Sam said the raffle had raised around £150 while her JustGiving fund has topped £385.

SODA has recently opened an office in Halesowen,at the Hope Centre.

Project gets £9.6m to help the homeless

A £9.6 million homelessness fund to help get rough sleepers off the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas has been set up.

The Government funding will pay for 225 properties across the region – including 75 across the Black Country – which specialist street intervention teams will use to house the homeless.

It will run as a pilot scheme for three years and is based on the Housing First model, which has successfully reduced rough sleeping in Finland.

The project will be overseen by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street's homelessness task force, alongside housing providers and homelessness charities in the region. It was signed off by James Brokenshire in his first act as Housing Secretary.

Mr Street, who visited Helsinki last year to see the scheme in action, said: "I can vouch for the positive impact it has on supporting rough sleepers and came back determined we trial it here in the West Midlands. It can provide people who are homeless with a new start, somewhere to call home. They will be given support to help them rebuild their lives. Now the funding has been confirmed we will work with charities and local authorities on getting the pilot up and running."

Major new gym centre proposed for school

PROPOSALS have been submitted to Dudley Council for a purpose-built gymnastics centre and fitness suite at Ellowes Hall in Lower Gornal.

The college has won £100,000 of funding from Sport England for the project, which would see a gymnastic centre built that could host major events. It would also be the new home for Dudley Gymnastics Club.

M6 is UK's most deadly motorway

THE M6 has claimed more lives than any other motorway in Britain in the past decade – despite racking up fewer collisions than the M1 and the M25.

The Department for Transport, looked at all reported road incidents on major UK roads between 2007-2016. It found that 160 people were killed on the M6, exactly twice as many as those who died on London's M25 even though it had 331 fewer accidents – 7,342 for the M6 compared to 7,673 for the M25 where 80 died over the decade.

The M5 was the scene of 91 fatalities, 14 per cent more than the M25, despite having fewer than half the number of crashes. Some 154 fatalities took place on the M1.

The analysis of more of Britain's motorways and A-roads revealed that the A38, which runs through Birmingham, had 8,698 accidents – 360 more than any other road in Britain.

SPRING IS HERE!!
DOES YOUR PROPERTY NEED A SPRING CLEAN?

Celebrating 17 Years in Business

Due to popular demand now taking bookings for Weekends and Bank Holidays

At BTF we specialise in the external cleaning of properties. Our team of experts are trained to tackle and revive the most dirty and worn of driveways, patios, tiled roofs and UPVC products. Based in Halesowen we offer a professional, friendly and efficient service, with thousands of satisfied customers across the West Midlands.

Tiled roofs washed and cleaned

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE :-
✔ Driveway and Patio cleaning ✔ Driveway Sealing and Recolouring
✔ UPVC Guttering, Fascia and Soffits, washed & cleaned
✔ Conservatories and Orangeries cleaned (inside & out)
✔ Tiled roofs washed and cleaned

For all of your external cleaning requirements, **call the experts at BTF Cleaning Services!!**

BTF CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED

www.btfcleaningservices.co.uk
Narrow Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 9ND
Tel/Fax No; 01384 568345

'Astle' bridge saga goes on as graffiti covered up

NOW you see it _ and now you don't!

Graffiti paying homage to Baggies legend Jeff Astle was daubed on a bridge named after him in Netherton.

But it was soon covered over with a swathe of black paint.

Primrose Bridge, in Cradley Road, has been known locally as Astle Bridge after the words 'Astle is King' were daubed on it to mark the striker's winning goal against Everton in the 1968 FA Cup final.

And 'Astle is the King' was painted on the bridge last week – lasting no more than 24 hours before it was painted over.

The clean-up is the latest episode in the bridge's footnote in Albion and Black Country history.

The original graffiti was cleaned off by the council in the early 1990s,

But it soon reappeared a couple of days later with the added warning 'Dudley Council please take note'. It was then repainted only to be covered over again.

The famous graffiti tribute to Albion player Jeff Astle on the bridge in Netherton

Relegation now this – the tribute has been painted over, again

Play

Meanwhile, three former West Bromwich Albion stars have reunited ahead of a play based on the life of Jeff Astle. Tony Brown, Ally Robertson and Dennis Clarke met up at the Hawthorns last week to discuss their memories of the former Baggies number nine.

The trio were interviewed by Mike Howl, a professional playwright and director who is putting together The Jeff Astle Story, which he describes as "a a tribute to Jeff, his life and his career."

The play will be performed at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre in Brindleyplace from Thursday, May 24, to May 27.

Mike said: "Some of their stories are very, very funny. I was there 50 years ago when Jeff scored in the FA Cup final and making the play is bringing all the memories back."

The much-loved forward scored 174 goals in 361 games for the club – including the winning goal at Wembley against Everton. All proceeds from the production will go to the Jeff Astle Foundation, set up by his daughter Dawn to help people with head injuries resulting from playing sport.

Mike said: "I was there 50 years ago when Jeff scored in the FA Cup final. If someone had said to me then that I would be writing a play on him then I wouldn't have believed them."

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

MAY & JUNE FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

YOUR ARMCHAIR GUIDE TO A NEW BATHROOM

• DECISION
Phone us for a No Obligation Quote (Daytime / Evenings or Weekends)

• QUOTATION
Design/Planning & Materials & Suite all chosen in your home & an on the spot price given.

• INSTALLATION
The Job is started & completed in around 5 days & left clean & tidy with all rubbish removed

• INSPECTION
Everything is thoroughly checked with yourself at the end of the job to your satisfaction.

• COMPLETION
Only when you are delighted with the finished job, do we accept your final balance.

• RECOMMENDATION
We hope YOUR CHOICE will be your friends choice

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3950
• 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
• 15 SQM Wall Tiles
• Tiled Floor
• Replacement Shower
• New Basin & WC
EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL
Are you having problems getting in & out of your bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle & Tiled inside. Supply a new replacement shower A Folding Seat & Grab Rail
ALL FOR ONLY £2150

VAT FREE IN QUALIFYING CASES

FOR FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE AND A WARM WELCOME PHONE US NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE SURVEY

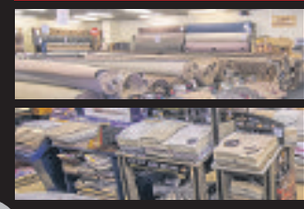
VISA MasterCard

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222
Showroom also at: 39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW
01902 861908

SHOWROOM OPEN
9am-5pm 6 Days a Week
www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk

ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKISTS OF CARPET IN THE COUNTRY
Over 200 Part Rolls
ALL LESS 50%
At STD we have the best fitters and we are NEVER undercut on price

SALE NOW ON



	Was sq yd	Now sq yd
Apollo	£9.95	£7.95
Majesty bleach cleanable	£13.95	£9.95
Sensations Heathers	£16.95	£12.95
Waterproof bathroom carpet	£18.95	£8.36
Contract wilton	£18.95	£8.95

Plus many more great offers

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK 9.00 to 5.30; Sunday 10.30 to 4.00; Closed Wednesdays

10% OFF All end rolls with this voucher

Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00 Closed Wednesdays
Church Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3PT
TELEPHONE: 01384 76448
www.stdcarpets.com

STD carpets

VISA MasterCard

BRIERLEY HILL
CHURCH ST A461 BRETTELL LANE
K'FORD S'BRIDGE

CASH Hawthorne & Walker CARRY

FRESH BONELESS Welsh Lamb Legs £3.99lb = £8.80 kilo

WHOLE BEST QUALITY Boneless Sirloins
Was £6.99lb Now £5.99lb = £13.20 kilo (Saving £10.00 a strip)

WHOLE FRESH HEREFORD RUMPS OF BEEF ie Hip Bone Steak £4.89lb = £10.78 kilo

FRESH BONELESS Welsh Lamb Rumps £5.99lb = £13.20 kilo

WHOLE FRESH BEEF FILLETS
£7.99lb = £17.60 kilo

*** HOMEMADE BEEFBURGERS & MINTED LAMB BURGERS**

Whole grain fed, hormone free, beef roasts..... £2.98lb = £6.57 Kilo
Whole Boneless, Black Angus Salmon Cuts of Beef ..... £3.99lb = £8.79 Kilo
Middle Cut, Lamb Legs ..... £3.17lb = £6.99 Kilo

Diced Lamb Neck Fillets B/less ..... £3.99lb = £8.79 Kilo
Whole Boneless Pork Loins £1.99lb = £4.16 Kilo
Whole Pork Bellies..... £1.89lb = £4.16 Kilo

Small Whole B/less Pork Legs ..... £1.78lb = £3.92 Kilo
5lb Short Back Bacon..... £7.99
5lb Smoked Short Back Bacon..... £8.99

10 A/Angus Sirloin Steaks ... £19.99 pack
10 Pork Loin Steaks..... £7.99 Pack
10 Rib Eye Steaks ..... £19.99 pack

HOME MADE PORK SAUSAGE
Pork and Leek, Pork and Red Onion
Pork and Black Pudding, Tomato
Sausage, Jalapeno and Pork
Gluten Free Sausage Available

FREEZER PACK
£69.00
2lb beef joint, 2lb lamb joint
2 pork joint, 2lb pork sausage
2lb s/back bacon, 2lb rump steaks
2lb lamb chops, 2lb pork steaks

WWW.HAWTHORNEWALKER.CO.UK | EMAIL: HAWTHORNEANDWALKER@GMAIL.COM
01384 633648 (24 hr answer phone) or 01384 353550
TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME
Opening times: Mon: 9am-1pmTues: 8am-5pm, Wed & Sat: 8am-1pm, Thurs & Fri: 8am-5.30pm
ALL SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
172-6 HIGH STREET, QUARRY BANK
Most Credit Cards taken - Visa, Mastercard, etc

GREAT BRITISH BARBECUE

WIN! £25 Closing date 25/5/18

TO SPEND WITH ANY ADVERTISER ON THIS PAGE!!!

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the questions in this panel and send in your answers to the address on the coupon

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

1. Which butcher is in the high street at Quarry Bank?
2. Who's tele number is 01384 74303?
3. Langs of Wollaston is selling barbeque food, what is their full address?
4. Crown Butchers is in Stourbridge, what number do you have to call to order barbeque packs?

Susan Jones, Great British Barbecue Competition,
Express and Star, Stourbridge DY8 1AB Closing date 25/5/18

Mr/Mrs/Miss ..... First Name ..... Surname .....
Address .....
Postcode ..... Tel No. ..... Email .....
I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature .....
I would like to spend my prize money with .....

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 25/5/18 The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

Crown Butchers

It's going to be a Sizzling Saturday Get your Barbecue Packs early

BARBECUE OFFERS
3oz Beef Burgers 55p each or 10 for £5
Minted Lamb Chop Trays £5.50
5kilo Chicken Fillets only £25
Chicken Kebabs Trays £2.99 each or 2 for £5
Minted Lamb Burgers 69p each or 3 for £2

33 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB • 01384 441311

JOHN BOOD BUTCHERS LTD

JB

SIZZLING SUMMER

Quality butchers | Open to the public and retail

BBQ PACKS TO ORDER
OR CALL IN TO SEE US

Unit E Brockmoor Park Industrial estate, Moor Street. Brierley Hill DY5 3TG
01384 74303

Langs of Wollaston

The Great British Barbecue

Get your Barbecue food early as it's going to be a Sizzling Saturday

Home made burgers, sausages, kebabs, chutneys, pork pies and much more...

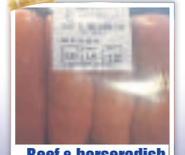
Jamaican jerk burgers

Jerk chicken legs

Louisiana turkey burger

The Tennessee Steak burger

Chilli beef Bad Boys


Beef & horseradish sausages

Chicken Kebabs

Beef burgers & minted lamb burgers

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5.30 pm, Sat 7-4.30 pm
127 Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge DY8 3NX | Tel: 01384 395460

Family hold fun day in memory of Brody

MORE than £1,600 was raised for charity in memory of a baby who died 42 minutes after being born.

Around 100 people attended the event at Sedgley Scout Hut and enjoyed a bouncy castle, live singer, craft stalls and a raffle to celebrate the memory of Brody Smith – one year on from his birth.

Brody was born on May 20 at 37 weeks at 5lbs 5ozs but he had kidney failure and did not live past an hour.

The money raised will be split and given to Acorns Children's Hospice and Remember My Baby, a charity made up of photographers who volunteer their skills to help bereaved parents commemorate their babies.

The day was organised by Brody's parents, Jenny Smith, 33, and Jamie Smith, 41, from Tipton.

There was also a raffle where around 20 prizes were up for grabs including the top prize, which was the chance to have the use of a Mercedes for the weekend.

Jenny and Jamie Smith with Clayton and Archie and supporters at the fun day

Sunshine

Mrs Smith said: "Remember My Baby are a wonderful charity that not many people know about and we wanted to give something back.

"It was a brilliant day that was really helped by the sunshine. Lots of people came up to me and said how great it was. We just want to thank everybody for heir support because we could not have done this without everyone involved."

Brody's parents enjoyed the day with their two sons Clayton, 7, and Archie, 3, and they hope to continue organising events each May for charity.

To donate visit brody-smith.muchloved.com/

Sounds like summer in parks

THE programme for the summer season of free outdoor band concerts in the Dudley borough has been announced.

The season of shows will be staged at Stevens Park in Quarry Bank, Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge and Himley Hall and Park.

At Stevens Park sets for the summer include the Black Country String Band on June 10, Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass on July 1, and Black Country Brass Band on August 12.

Over at Mary Stevens Park the AD Concert Band will perform on July 15, Madi Stimpson Trio on July 29, and Jazz on Tap on September 2.

Himley Hall and Park will host a total of five concerts and the guests will be Alveley Village Band on June 3, Black Country Brass Band on June 24, BJ Concert Band on July 22, AD Concert Band on August 5 and then the Out of the Blue Big Band on August 26. All the concerts will run between 2.30pm and 5.30pm and are free.

Save cash with the Big Switch

Dudley Council's Big Switch has made it easy to switch energy supplier and save. Thousands have registered for the hassle free scheme, saving up to £300 on their gas and electricity bills.

It's free and easy to register for the market leading deals on offer.

Register by 21 May 2018

Call Dudley Council Plus* on 0300 555 2345

Or you can also register online and find out more information at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch

*Please have a copy of your current bill to hand when calling

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

DESIGNED | PLANNED | INSTALLED

THE ONE STOP SHOPPING | EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR

NEW KITCHEN / BATHROOM AND BEDROOM

Serenity KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

FREE & NO OBLIGATION WE TRY HARDER HOME VISIT AND SURVEY

DISABILITY SPECIAL OFFER

We have a good history of working with clients who have trouble using their bath

- New shower and folding seat and grab rail
- Receive a new easy access shower
- Tiled inside

Only £2150.00

age UK RECOMMENDED

EXAMPLE JOB

- Shower enclosure or bath
- New shower/basin/wc
- 15 sqm wall and floor tiling
- Debris removed

Only £3850.00

COME AND VISIT US IN STORE TODAY

DUDLEY Dawley Trading Estate | Stallings Lane | Kingswinford | DY6 7AP

Call us on 01384 279 997

Email: info@serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

www.serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK | SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BT will axe 13,000 jobs to cut costs

BT is to axe around 13,000 jobs as part of a revamped cost-cutting drive. The company said the job losses would mainly affect back office and middle management roles, with two thirds of the cuts set to fall on UK staff.

BT has a strong presence in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and West Bromwich, and remains a key local employer. In total, BT employs more than 6,000 people across the counties of the West Midlands.

There are no details yet of what the move means for individual locations around the country. Remaining staff cuts are expected to impact upon BT's operations abroad.

Plans were also revealed to exit the BT headquarters in central London, though another site in the capital is expected to house its head office. The move comes as BT looks to cut costs by around £1.5 billion by the final year of its three-year plan.

The telecoms firm added that it would be hiring around 6,000 new employees 'to support network deployment and customer service'. BT has around 106,400 employees globally with 82,800 in the UK.

The announcement comes nearly a year after the company said it was to axe 4,000 jobs.

BT Chief executive Gavin Patterson said: "Decisions like this are not easy."

Fairtrade status is renewed in Sedgley

CAMPAIGNERS have successfully renewed Sedgley's Fairtrade status for a further two years. Sedgley Fairtrade Initiative has been recognised for its ongoing commitment to the movement's principles for helping economically disadvantaged producers, such as farmers in developing countries. Sedgley was first awarded Fairtrade status in 2015.

Force attracts more than 100 cadets as youth scheme revived

Ex-Goodyear workers' donation

Cyril Barrett with critical care consultant Dr David Stanley, Helen Halsall and chief nurse Siobhan Jordan

FORMER Goodyear workers will be helping critically-ill patients as part of a donation to a hospital.

They will be funding a £28,000 Bioquell Isolation Pod, which will enable staff at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley to treat people with confirmed or suspected infectious diseases, ensuring the highest level of care is provided.

A donation of £9,190 will also be spent on improvements in the Stroke Unit Therapy Room, including a state-of-the-art reminiscence interactive therapy unit.

Chief nurse Siobhan Jordan and critical care consultant Dr David Stanley met Cyril Barrett who runs the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Branch Benevolent Fund to receive an overall cheque for £37,190.

Mr Barrett said he was delighted to be able to help the hospital, adding: "It's all about creating this living legacy for those who worked at Goodyear.

"We are proud to be able to purchase these items for Russells Hall Hospital, and to know that patients will get the benefit for many years to come."

Chief nurse Siobhan Jordan said: "We are honoured to have been chosen by the Goodyear Benevolent Fund and are grateful for their very generous donation.

"Both projects are absolutely fundamental to improve the care we deliver at Russells Hall Hospital."

MORE than 100 youngsters have pledged their time to become police cadets.

The young recruits, all aged under 18, will work within five units across the West Midlands after volunteering for the role.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) David Jamieson reignited the scheme after it came to an end in 1998.

He said: "This was a key promise that I made to the public in my manifesto and I am delighted we have now recruited more than 100 cadets.

"It is fantastic to see how quickly the scheme has grown and how popular it is proving.

"It is now really clear that it is making a real difference to the lives of more than 100 young people in our region."

The cadet scheme, which was an election pledge by Mr Jamieson, was relaunched last autumn as part of the PCC's police and crime plan.

Vital

He said young people acted as a 'vital link' between the force and their peers, with some going on to pursue a career as a police officer.

The initiative aims to build self-esteem, develop leadership skills and provide youngsters with a greater sense of community.

Assistant Chief Constable Sarah Boycott, of West Midlands Police, said: "We are very proud of the success of WMP Cadets since its relaunch last year.

"Cadet schemes are popular and to already be running successfully in four areas of the West Midlands is wonderful for the force, the young cadets and the communities they are a part of. They are a key part of increasing our engagement with local people, while giving us the opportunity to bring police and young people closer together."

Travellers' camp plan put on hold

PROTESTERS rallying against a travellers' transit camp in Coseley have won a battle to stave off the controversial plans.

Council planning bosses in Dudley have agreed to delay making a decision on the plans until they have carried out a visit to the site in Budden Road. The decision has given residents opposed to it hope that the scheme could still be scrapped.

Committee members voted unanimously to defer their decision on the future of the Budden Road playing fields in Coseley despite plans being recommended for approval.

Campaigner Tony Sheldon at a meeting raised issues of contamination and potential job losses for Coseley, as businesses were considering relocating if the plan goes ahead.

The site, expected to cost the council £280,000, would provide 40 caravan pitches for three years.

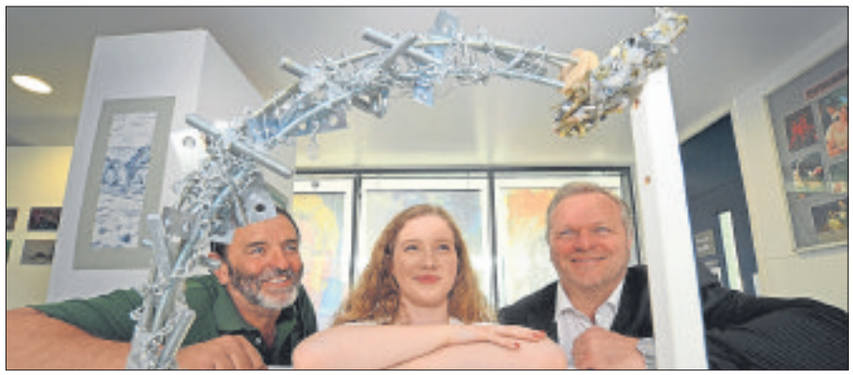
STOUR VALLEY CAT RESCUE
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 511-0304
HUGE JUMBLE SALE & NEARLY NEW
at Kinver Methodist Church Hall, Potter's Cross, Kinver
which was scheduled for May 19th has been cancelled
IT WILL NOW BE ON 2ND JUNE 2018
Sorry for inconvenience
ALL SALES NOW START AT 12.30PM
Admission 30p
Loads of Bargains, Please Come Along and Support Your Local Cat Rescue
We are also looking for urgent homes for adults and mature cats
For further information call Anita on:
01384 375832

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)
360° VIRTUAL TOUR NOW ON WEBSITE
For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985
Like us on facebook
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

THE SHED SHOP
Established 27 Years
6ft x 4ft T&G Sheds from £240
Concrete slotted post now at £9
Concrete gravel boards now £9
6ft x 5ft overlap heavy duty fence panels £15
Railwasy Sleepers £16
Continental Panels in stock
Post mix 20kg bags £4.50
A wide range of fence panels available
All Products for immediate delivery
Public & Trade Welcome
Special Offers Also Available
01384 482 542 / 07920 885 774
www.dudleyshedshop.co.uk

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Your Chronicle in association with leger holidays
Discover the Best of Europe
EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER! SAVE £20pp on all tours. Offer Code: READ
WINNER MEDIUM BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS 2017 BEST COACH HOLIDAY COMPANY
Enjoy one of our fully escorted touring holidays travelling by luxury coach.
✓ Holidays from only £259pp
✓ Luxury coaches with extra legroom
✓ £50pp low deposit
✓ FREE brochure – order now!
ABTA ATOL
Europe & Worldwide
Local joining points: Dudley*, Stourbridge*, Halesowen*, Birmingham
Call 01709 787 491 (Quote: RP22) www.leger.co.uk
Terms & conditions apply. *Supplements may apply.

Success hinges on student's design



Student Florence Thompson with sculptor Phil Bayliss, left, and Guy Perry, managing director of A Perry and Co

A NEW landmark celebrating a long-established Black Country business is due to be created in Cradley Heath.

The sculpture designed by 18-year-old student Florence Thompson is a result of a partnership between Halesowen College and A Perry & Co (Hinges) Ltd, a leading manufacturer and supplier of hinges, hardware and ironmongery, which has been based in the area for 93 years.

The independent family-owned company in Doulton Road offered the opportunity of designing a representative sculpture of its business to second year students at the college, supporting their final diploma assignment.

The project was assigned to students who prefer 3D work. After reviewing submissions, A Perry chose the design by Florence, whose prize is an electronic tablet.

Add colour to your garden

stay low price £4.50 30cm

3 for £6* save £3

150 litres for just £6

£3.25 water reservoir

£8* raised modular bed

stay low price £1.50 1.5kg

Slowly releases water into your hanging basket

Create the perfect planter...

Loads more garden stuff you'll love at wilko.com

wilko

*Offer live until 05.06.18, in store only. *Plant not included. All products subject to availability. Please check your store in advance to avoid disappointment. Online delivery charges may apply. Wilko Multi-Purpose Compost 150ltr (£0.04 per 1ltr). Wilko Fish Blood and Bone 1.5kg (£1.00 per 1kg).

QUALITY KITCHEN FACELIFTS

A fresh approach to a new kitchen

why replace when you can reface?

- Trusted reputation
- Made to measure custom-built doors and units
- Door swaps to full kitchens - tailored to your needs

www.dreamdoors.co.uk

DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

View our credentials on

Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

Call Gary For a Free Estimate

01384 469756

dy@dreamdoors.co.uk

26 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 17, 2018

Protecting your big day from hidden risk

WITH the Royal Wedding this weekend, brides and grooms-to- be are being warned they risk huge financial losses if they aren't vigilant about protecting their own upcoming nuptials.

As Prince Harry and Meghan Markle get set to tie the knot on May 19, specialist insurance expert Rob Matthews, of Lycetts, is urging others planning their big day to be aware of a hidden risk – or face thousands of pounds of loss.

The Shropshire-based specialist said that many couples are unaware that they may need additional insurance cover if things go wrong in the run-up to, during or after the wedding – from rings being lost to wedding gifts being stolen.

He said: "A lot of planning goes into weddings, as does a lot of hard-earned cash, but despite this, ensuring sufficient protection is in place is often overlooked or not on the couple's radar at all.

"This is somewhat understandable, as there is much to consider, but we have seen first-hand the upset and heartache caused when unsuspecting, underinsured couples take a hit, especially at an already financially stressful time.

"We have found that many couples assume their contents insurance protects the high-value items associated with weddings, such as the wedding dress, gifts and rings. But this may not be the case.

Having these high value items in the home may exceed the policy limit, leaving couples vulnerable if they wish to make a claim.

"For example, if 100 guests each gave a present worth £50 to the happy couple, all of a sudden an additional £5,000 worth of goods are under their roof.

"Burglars are known to target unoccupied homes, and the gift-laden house of a couple on their wedding day or honeymooning is particularly attractive prey.

"Many insurers will increase contents cover for a period around the wedding but couples need to speak to their insurer to check if this can be done, what it protects and for how long."

Rob said couples may wish to consider buying wedding insurance, which covers a range of problems that can hit the big day – from supplier failure to venue cancellation.

The Royal Wedding is mooted to cost anywhere between £1.5 million and £32 million, and although the average couple's budget is a fraction of that – around £20,000 – newly-weds could be entering married life significantly out of pocket if an issue arises.

Despite the growing trend to purchase dedicated wedding insurance, Rob said many couples are unaware that it exists.

Rob said: "When you consider how much money is at stake, wedding insurance is a small price to pay for peace of mind.

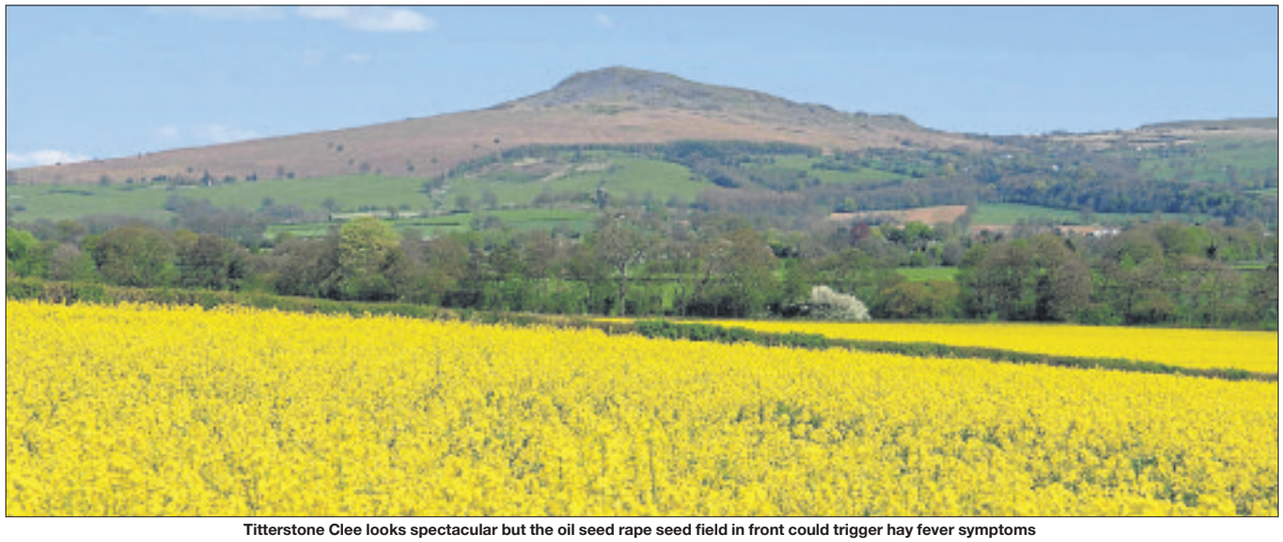
"But couples need to be aware that policies differ significantly, so read the small print and be aware of any limits and exceptions.

"For example, cancellation cover can vary significantly, from as low as £3,000 to as high as £60,000.

Couples should have a clear idea of how much their wedding will cost, so that they are not left in a situation where they are underinsured.

"It is also worth bearing in mind that some eventualities won't be able to be claimed for, such as cancellation due to a spouse's change of heart, and in some circumstances additional or specialist protection may be needed, such as for marquee use, an extravagant dress breaching policy limits, or overseas ceremonies.

"It may take some time and planning but it will help couples get hitched without a hitch."



Titterstone Clee looks spectacular but the oil seed rape seed field in front could trigger hay fever symptoms

Tips for keeping asthma season symptoms at bay

By Chiara Fiorillo

IT'S almost summer, which means people will be starting to worry about the return of their hay fever symptoms.

Also known as allergic rhinitis, this irritating condition is an allergic reaction to pollen that usually gets worse between late March and September, when it's warm and humid.

It's estimated that 40 per cent of the population suffers from hay fever, and even with closed windows, pollen can find its way indoors and prevent people from going about their day-to-day life.

The most common symptoms are usually caused when our bodies, in contact with the outside, produce allergic antibodies to proteins in tree and grass pollen.

When pollen is inhaled, the proteins cause the antibodies to burst and release histamine. It's this defence system that triggers the sneezing, itching, sore eyes and runny nose that many of us experience in the warmer months.

The main triggers of hay fever are tree pollen, grass pollen, weed pollen and fungal spores, with grass pollen being the most common. Allergic rhinitis is usually treated with anti-histamines, such as Cetirizine and Loratadine. However, there are some other non-pharmaceutical remedies that could help you feel better. Here are just a few you can try...

Up to 40 per cent of the population suffers from hay fever

If you have an allergy, you may be sensitive to dandelion pollen

You can bring pollen into your home on your hair so take a shower

Face masks can be effective in filtering out pollen

1. Give your house a good vacuum

Need an excuse for a spring clean? "Vacuuming is one of the best things you can do to reduce pollen particles indoors," says Sara Alsen, communications director from Blueair. "Make sure your vacuum cleaner is fitted with a good filter that doesn't re-release the pollen particles back into the air."

She recommends buying one that uses a bag, as they're the best at trapping dust. "Also look for one with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to remove at least 99.97% of ultra-small particles that can cause health problems," she adds.

2. Use a wet cloth to clean surfaces and floors

Just like dust, pollen can land on surfaces and floors and remain there, unseen to the naked eye. "Instead of cleaning with a feather duster, make sure you clean all surfaces with a damp cloth or microfiber mop, which can remove smaller particles better, and ensure that you're not just spreading them around your home," says Alsen.

3. Leave shoes and clothing at door

To make sure you don't end the day with an unwelcome dose of pollen, shed your coat, shoes and clothing as you enter your home. "Pollen clings to your clothing, as well as shoes and hair," says Alsen, "so use a mat to wipe off your shoes or, even better – leave them by the door."

4. Shower and wash your hair after having been outside

A cold shower could be just what you need to calm your symptoms, as water blasts pollen from the body before it can irritate your nose and eyes. "During the summer months, we carry a lot of pollen into the home with us, so it's a good idea to shower and wash your hair when you've been outside, as the particles can easily be brought indoors," says Alsen.

5. Use room air purifiers

The polluted air from outside can add to indoor pollutants that irritate our sinuses, including cigarette smoke, scented candles and stain removers. "Air purifiers remain the most efficient way to remove these airborne pollutants, helping individuals breathe healthier and relieve many allergy symptoms," says Alsen.

6. Use in-car air purifiers

While pollen tends to spend most of its time outside, it can be hard to keep it out of your car, too. "The air inside the car can be up to 15 times more polluted than on the road outside," says Alsen, who adds: "A good air-purifier can remove the pollen inside your car in four to six minutes."

7. Check the pollen count and adapt your daily route accordingly

Most cities in the UK provide pollen maps, such as the Pollen Forecast published by the Met Office (metoffice.gov.uk). "Mornings and breezy days are usually the worst," says Alsen.

8. Use a face mask when outdoors

Anything you can do to stop pollen getting into your nose will help stop hay fever symptoms. "Face masks are rare in the UK, but can be an effective way of filtering out pollen from the air," says Alsen.

9. Try red light therapy

Getting a good night's sleep during the summer could be as easy as trying a 'nose probe' for three minutes before bed. LloydsPharmacy have an Allergy Reliever (£14.99 – reduced from £19.99, lloydspharmacy.com) that is inserted into the nostrils to help provide relief.

Tributes pour in for Baggies FA Cup hero

TRIBUTES have been paid to Albion FA Cup hero Graham Lovett, who has died at the age of 70 following a short illness.

Mr Lovett played alongside Jeff Astle in the Baggies side that beat Everton in the 1968 Cup final at Wembley.

After his retirement he carved out a second career at the Express & Star, working for the newspaper's advertising department for more than 14 years, finishing his second career at sales manager as The Chronicle in 1998.

E&S regional sales manager Pete Hazel, said: "Everyone has been very sad and shocked to hear of Graham's death. He was one the funniest people and one of the biggest characters you could ever meet.

"Graham is not only a legend with Albion fans, he is a legend with his former colleagues."

Lovett made 157 appearances for Albion, scoring nine goals, but saw his career hampered through injuries sustained in two serious car crashes.

Joining the Baggies straight from school, wing-half made his debut aged 17 in 1964. He properly established himself in the Baggies team the following season, scoring four goals in 47 games, and playing in the first leg of Albion's League Cup final victory over West Ham United.

His good form continued into the following campaign, but his season ended just before Christmas when a serious car accident left him in hospital with a broken neck and fears that he would never play again.

Lovett watched the 1967 FA Cup final from his hospital bed, but a year later was at Wembley, given the key role of marshalling Everton's Ray Wilson, as Albion recorded a 1-0 win to lift the cup through Astle's famous strike.

After spells living abroad, Mr Lovett returned to the UK and became a regular at The Hawthorns again.

Graham Lovett, second from right, celebrating winning the 1968 FA Cup final, inset in more recent times

Hospital app aims to boost efficiency in NHS staff levels

A HOSPITAL will allow NHS workers to fill empty shifts through a new app as part of a trial aiming to reduce reliance and spend on agency staff.

Thousands of doctors, midwives and nurses will be able to sign up to work extra hours at Russells Hall Hospital using the technology, and some could be paid within just 24 hours.

The scheme, funded by the Department for Health and Social Care, hopes to improve flexible working for NHS staff and help hospitals respond better to increased demand.

Hospital trusts in the Black Country have spent millions of pounds on drafting in temporary workers in recent years to help them cope with increased demand and staff sickness.

The Dudley Group NHS Trust is among several trusts to have been selected for the trial.

Chief executive Diane Wake said: "We are thrilled to be chosen as one of the first pilot trusts working to improve the way we engage with temporary staff.

"Part of the pilot will review the web-based app that allows our employees working on the bank to access real time information about shifts available, as well as developing a quicker payment route for staff."

Police have launched firearms surrender

A FIREARMS surrender has kicked off in the West Midlands – with people urged to hand over their weapons to police.

The last surrender saw nearly 250 potentially lethal weapons and ammunition handed in comprising over 100 working firearms including rifles, shotguns, revolvers and handguns.

In addition, silencers, starting pistols, air weapons and two deactivated machine guns including an SKS 7 and a 'Tommy gun' were taken into police stations across the region.

Commissioner Jamieson

Already this year the force has taken 53 firearms off the streets amid 45 reported firearms discharges, compared to 62 in the same period last year.

Detective Inspector Rod Rose, from the Force's CID Prevent team, said: "Previous gun surrenders have proved very successful in removing firearms from our streets.

Vital

"Although enforcement activity is important, it is vital that police, partners and the community work together to stop young people being involved in violent crime and gang activity before it gets to that stage. There is significant community support for this activity, and we're working with other agencies as well to try and make our towns and cities safe for local people.

"I would urge anyone who is holding a gun, maybe through fear or misguided loyalty to someone else, to hand it in now, otherwise the alternative could be up to five years in prison."

Weapons can be surrendered at any West Midlands Police station or by calling the force on 101 and arranging for officers to make home visits.

It's also hoped the surrender will stop unused shotguns or antique firearms from falling into the hands of criminals.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "I welcome the campaign by West Midlands Police to tackle the problem of violent crime.

"The last surrender saw nearly 250 weapons handed in to police, many of which could have fallen into the wrong hands.

"Every weapon taken off the streets is potentially a life saved.

"The consequences of violent crime have a devastating impact."

Guns can be surrendered anonymously but the history of live weapons handed in will be checked for any evidence of criminal use.

The firearms will either be destroyed or retained for training exercises.

Guns can be taken to any one of 10 police stations across the West Midlands but people are advised to check station opening times. For advice on how best to transport the weapon responsibly phone 101 before travelling.

The surrender runs until May 27.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

MAMMOTH MATTRESS & BED CLEARANCE

- BEDS AND MATTRESSES TO CLEAR FROM JUST £69
- FULL RANGE OF SIZES
- WE DELIVER FREE OF CHARGE
- WE EVEN TAKE AWAY YOUR OLD MATTRESS AND BEDS FREE OF CHARGE

CALL IN TODAY TO SEE OUR RANGE

HURRY - IT WON'T LAST FOREVER!

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO US WE WILL COME TO YOU

UP TO £1000 PART EXCHANGE FOR YOUR OLD SUITE

A Large Selection of Recliners and Riser Recliners also available FROM £495

Dreamworld furniture

Three Piece Suites, Chairs, Beds, Carpets, Dining and Bedroom Furniture

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm Sun 10.30am-4.30pm • LARGE CAR PARK FREE

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU
Tel: 01384 295660

Jason Donovan's tour includes a Brierley Hill date

Curtain-up on Jason's life of many colours

He's been a heart-throb in Neighbours, singer and reality star, he's won a drugs battle and now he's out on tour – especially for you

When Jason Donovan takes to the stage in the coming months audiences are in for a surprise, writes Andy Richardson.

For the boy who made it big on Neighbours, dated Kylie, went to number one, thrilled as Joseph and developed a very public cocaine habit before returning on I'm A Celebrity and Strictly Come Dancing is doing something he's never done before – making his audiences laugh as though he were a stand-up.

The man who shot to fame as Scott Robinson is playing Shropshire and the wider West Midlands as part of his Amazing Mid-Life Crisis tour.

And the show is full of funny stories that have had audiences laughing in the aisles across the UK.

The pop star who scored the biggest selling album of 1989 with Ten Good Reasons is having fun on a tour that's unlike anything he's ever done before. "I've toured as a pop star, I've toured as an actor, I've toured in musical theatre – but I've never been out there as myself before.

"And it's been brilliant fun. Over the past 30 years, I've accumulated a mass of funny stories – about Kylie, Elton John, George Michael – you name them, I've probably met them. So the current tour is a chance to tell a load of stories, sing a couple of songs and really get intimate with the fans. It's brilliant. I've having great fun."

Donovan's show is called My Amazing Midlife Crisis. The name came about because he suffered problems with his voice after being on the road in musicals for 10 straight years. It also coincides with his 50th birthday. His voice problems are now under control – though they gave him a fright and he underwent botox treatment to aid his recovery.

Donovan spills the beans on a remarkable life when he takes to the stage. "Everybody wants to know about certain things," he says. "Neighbours is always popular, so I talk about that. You know, we were watched by more than 20 million people here in the UK and it changed our lives.

"But what a lot of people don't realise is that Kylie and I knew each other many years before Neighbours, when we featured in another TV show as brother and sister. Neighbours was a remarkable period of our lives and it was hugely successful.

"I remember U2 once playing a show in Australia and they called out Scott and Charlene from the stage – it was everywhere."

Stock, Aitken and Waterman signed him up and his Ten Good Reasons album became the biggest hit of the year, while Jason and Kylie fought it out with Cliff over the Christmas Number One slot with Especially For You. "Kylie and I were an item for about four years. And the things that were happening on Neighbours and in the charts were broadly similar to what was happening in real life.

"We were able to put our own personalities into the characters and it was amazing few years."

Wowed

From there, he went to Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Joseph, which wowed Princess Diana, Elton John and many, many more. But while he was the talk of the town and shot to number one, his private life was spinning out of control. He'd always enjoyed the odd joint back in Australia and as the rave generation hit and London was flooded with ecstasy and acid, he very quickly graduated to cocaine.

He used the drug to help him escape before a dramatic incident at where he passed out at Kate Moss's birthday party.

He doesn't regret taking drugs. "I took them because they were fun. Though I've been clean for 18 years and I now know what I don't want to do with my life."

Donovan has been with his long term partner for 20 years and they have been married for 10, after getting hitched in Bali. They have three children.

"It's great. My wife is my best friend and we're very happy. It's not perfect, no relationship ever is, but we're a great team and that was the thing that turned my life around."

His public rehabilitation came through two reality shows: I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Strictly Come Dancing.

Since then, he's been back on the road in a variety of musicals – among his fans' favourites are Priscilla, Rocky Horror, Million Dollar Quartet and The King's Speech. And there have also been 1980s festivals and plenty of pop gigs.

"When we decided to do the tour, we weren't quite sure what it would all be about. But then I began having a crisis because of my voice and the show ended up writing itself.

"We've been on the road since the start of the year and we're playing quite a few shows locally – we've played Telford Oakengates and Stafford Gatehouse and have Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn to come.

"I have great fans and My Amazing Midlife Crisis has given me the chance to do a show that gives them the chance to meet the real me."

Jason with Kylie in the heady days of Neighbours

Ex-Neighbour now the funny man next door

Jason's autobiographical show combined chat with some classic songs

MANY of us grew up with him when he starred in Neighbours.

Jason Donovan was the good-looking, sun-tanned beach bum who dated Kylie on and off-screen before launching a pop career and scoring the best-selling album of 1989, with Ten Good Reasons.

He went on to dazzle London's West End in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and Priscilla Queen of the Dessert.

With his 50th birthday on the horizon – remarkably, it's three days the other side of Kylie's birthday – he's taken to the road in his Amazing Mid Life Crisis Tour, including this date at Telford's Oakengates Theatre.

The autobiographical show combined a confessional spoken word section interspersed with questions from the audience – the best one was "Stage door or Wetherspoons? 10pm" – with a few acoustic songs.

Jason performing for the crowd

It worked – frequently with hilarious effects. Donovan's show was punctuated by the merry sound of laughter as he had the audience in the palm of his hand.

Donovan took to the stage for an illustrated monologue in which the hilarious stories came thick and fast.

A tale about Gary Barlow, Kylie Minogue and Bouncer the overfed dog from Neighbours had the audience in hysterics and brought the first round of applause of the evening.

Similar tales – including ones about George Michael, Sir Elton John and others – were belly-laugh-funny and ever-so-slightly anarchic.

Review by Andy Richardson

A brilliant anecdote about upstaging U2 nearly brought the house down as Donovan recalled how he'd been hashtagged #Legend by Stella McCartney and a group of supermodels after an aftershow party for the Irish rockers.

Donovan has been many things during his colourful career – heart-throb, cocaine abuser, dad, mega star, actor, musical theatre performer and more.

But on his Mid Life Crisis tour he's also a comic.

His timing, his engagement with the audience and his ability to tell a great story cast him as an unexpected stand-up.

Stories about the perils of fame, a fan who waited at the stage door for him in Glasgow and his love for his family and a normal life were delivered with great panache.

"What do your kids think of their famous dad?" somebody asked.

"I'm embarrassing," he deadpanned. "Or, at least I was until I started winning on Strictly. Then it all changed."

Ribbing

During the show, Donovan asked how many fans had attended his signature 1990 tour, which included four nights at Wembley Arena?

"Great," he laughed, when few people responded. "Four of you."

He asked how many had enjoyed his 2016 Ten Good Reasons tour?

"Ok, getting better. About 15."

The 500-plus crowd laughed.

"It's just nice to know that the older I get the more fans I seem to attract."

The show featured a number of stage costumes and Donovan shared tales of his time on I'm A Celebrity and Strictly Come Dancing during a fast-paced and funny second half.

He seemed to genuinely enjoy his time with the Telford crowd and frequently thanked them for his support.

The audience responded with humorous ribbing and plenty of banter – at one point, a woman even stopped the show to demonstrate her impression of a duck. The audience howled. Perhaps you just had to be there.

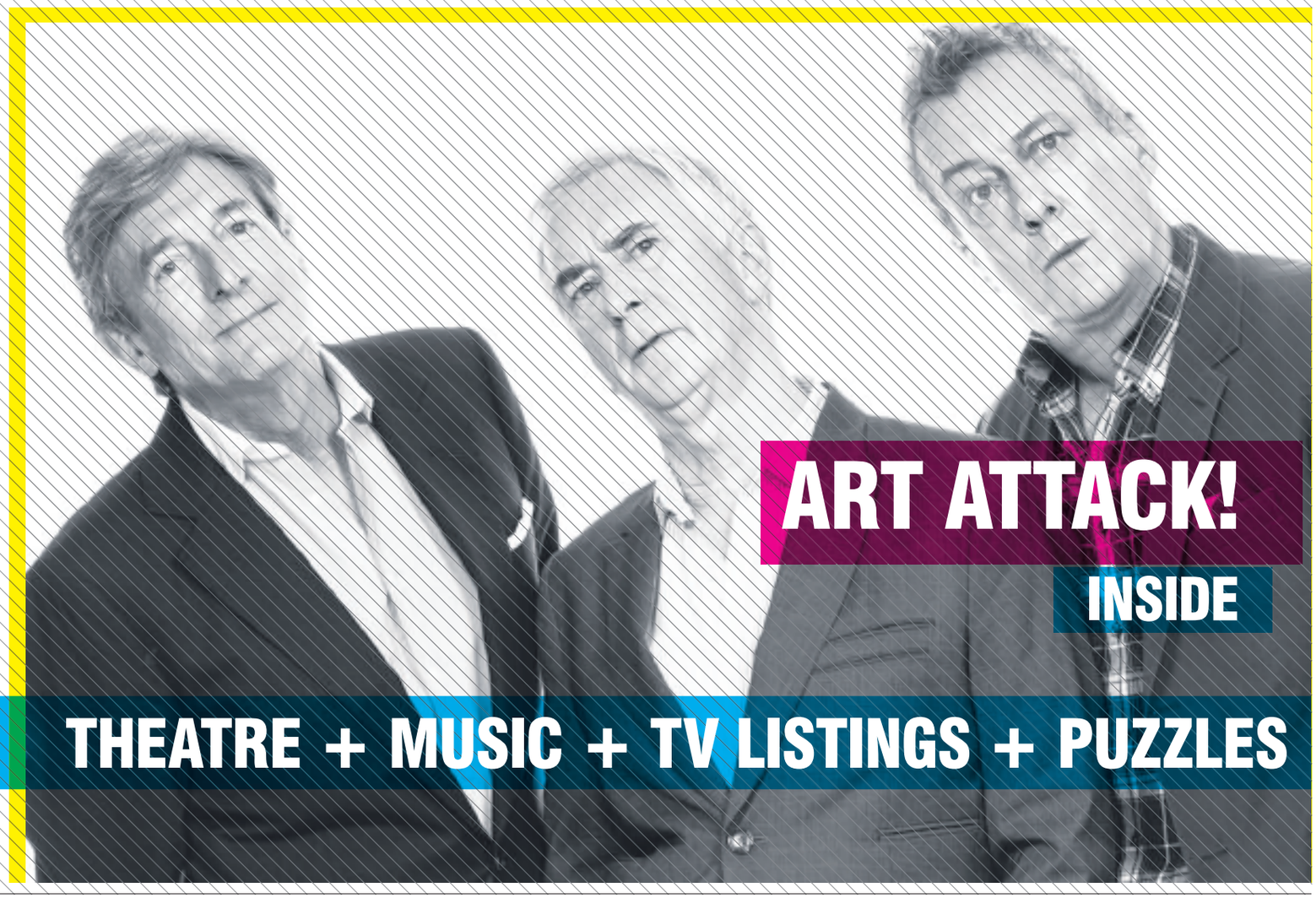
The second half started and ended with songs – Donovan beautifully re-interpreting two classic hits in acoustic format.

After a breathless two hours it was all over. The only question left unanswered was this – did he wait at the stage door or head off to Wetherspoons?

Jason Donovan will bring his Amazing Midlife Crisis to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on September 7. See www.bhillcivic.co.uk

The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star



ART ATTACK!

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

HAGLEY & OLD HALES BEER MUSIC & FOOD FESTIVAL SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

3 DAYS OF
BEER | STREET FOOD | MUSIC

MAY 25-27
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

OLD HALESONIANS RFC
STOURBRIDGE DY9 9JP

LIMITED EARLY BIRD ONLINE TICKETS ON SALE WITH FREE £5 DRINKS VOUCHER

*100 ALES & CIDERS
30 LIVE MUSIC ACTS
TOP STREET FOOD

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
SEE WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK

FRI 6-11PM
• OPENING NIGHT • LIVE BANDS • BEER FESTIVAL
• STREET FOOD • GIN & RUM BAR
SAT/SUN 12-11PM
• LIVE BANDS • BEER FESTIVAL • STREET FOOD
• MARKET • KIDS ZONE • FUN FAIR
• SHOWS & ACTS • KIDS FREE

30 Live Bands & Acts
Award Winning Street Food
Up to 100 Real Ales & Ciders
Festival Market - Kids Fun Fair
Prosecco, Pimms Wine Tent
Gin & Rum Bars, Displays,
Workshops & Side Shows

KIDS GO FREE - FREE PARKING
SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL T&Cs

www.hagleyoldhalesbeerfestival.com
*from the start of the festival -
Ales & Cider selection will reduce over the festival

THE SHOVEL INN
LYE

Next 6 weeks at The Shovel some of the fabulous ales from Bristol Beer Factory solely supplied by Ales R Russ

Twelve apostles *5%* brewed to showcase Australian hops galaxy ella enigma
Fortitude *4%* classic malts to give this a deep amber colour and richness

Nene valley brewery located in outdoes Northamptonshire
Manhatton project *4%*
Big bank theory *5.5%* gluten free vegan friendly
Hop stash (heavily hopped) *5%* gluten free
Release the chimps *4.4%*

*This weekend only, celebration ale for the Royal Wedding at a special price of £2.50 per pint

Brinkburn independant microbrewery in byker Newcastle upon Tyne
American pale ale dry hopped with citra and double hopped with Amarillo and Azacca *4.1%*

Welbeck abbey brewery (the welbeck estates newest venture) fabulous female brewer
Rapunzel very pale blonde *4.5%*
Fiery fox *4.8%* brewed with additional root ginger with a hint of lemon citra

Lentonlane brewery
Calibration A Bathams style sweetness but with a citrus hop finish *4.8%*

Live @ The Shovel inn
Friday 18th May
Locked & Loaded UK
Playing popular classics from; Stereophonics, Kings of Leon, Elvis, Rolling Stones, ZZ Top and more ....

LOS BANDIDOS
Samba - Bossa - Salsa - Reggae
Live Mexican entertainment!
Live at the shovel Thur 24th May £17.95 per person includes 2 drinks / shot and two course meal !!
Bookings now being taken ! 01384 423998

The Shaded Squares
Black and White
Live at The Shovel
Saturday 9th June

Telephone: 01384 423998
81 Pedmore Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 7DZ
Parking on opticians next door from 6pm Monday - Friday, Saturday from 3pm, All day Sunday
Like us on

There's an Art to making a top play

They've known each other for around 20 years. So for Stephen Tompkinson, Nigel Havers and Denis Lawson, lining up in a major production of Yasmina Reza's Olivier, Tony and Moliere award-winning comedy Art, translated by Christopher Hampton, is an absolute joy to behold.

The show reaches Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to May 26 as part of a major tour. And audiences are in for a treat.

Stephen says: "We've had a very positive reaction so far. We've known each other for 20 years and we're playing characters whose friendship is supposed to have last for 25 years. It's a very enjoyable part to play."

Stephen's television credits include five series of DCI Banks, four series of Trollied, seven series of Wild at Heart, six series of Drop the Dead Donkey (British Comedy Award Winner for Best TV Comedy Actor) and three series of Ballykissangel while his films include Phil in Brassed Off. His theatre work includes Spamalot, Rattle of a Simple Man and Arsenic and Old Lace in the West End, Cloaca (Old Vic) and Tartuffe (National Tour).

Art is a particular favourite of Tompkinson, however. He first read the script 18 years ago and saw the original production with Ken Stott, Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney.

"I came into the play about two years after that and funnily enough Nigel was in the adjoining rehearsal space doing a version that was about to go out on tour.

FORTUNE

"Art deals with three Parisian friends. One buys a white canvass, or so it seems, but if you look at it more closely you can see there's more layers to it. He's paid a small fortune for it.

"His other friend, Mark, played by Dennis, hates the painting and thinks he's lost his marbles. My character is in the middle trying to placate them."

Stephen has loved the play since day one. "I was dazzled when I saw the first night of the play. There was a magic chemistry between the three actors because the writing was so good.

"Nigel's done it a few times before – he'll have played it more than 800 times by the end of the run. And Dennis was the only one who was new to it. He came in on the first day of rehearsal and knew every single line because he assumed we would have known it inside out having played it before. As it turned out, he was the only one who was word perfect and Nigel and I were surprising how quickly we'd forgotten. We only had 2-and-a-half weeks to rehearse it."

Stephen says the show changes from town to town as different audiences react to it.

"In many ways, the audiences teach you the play. They teach you where the laughs are and where to take your time a bit more. It's different every night. It keeps you on your toes. It's an hour and 20 straight through with no interval. Once the train leaves the station it goes off at a rate of knots. The three of us sit down and have a debrief after a show because it's always changing and developing, so there are slightly new things coming to it and we run those by each other."

Though Stephen has spent much time in TV and film, he enjoys the thrill of live performance. Being on the road is a thrill.

"I love being on the road. It's a great way to see the country and most of my days are free.

"The variety is what keeps me going. I do enjoy it. I started in radio and moved into TV. If you haven't done theatre for a long time you miss it and it's a different set of acting muscles. You're reliant on the comedy in this piece."

His greatest film role was Brassed Off, in which he starred opposite his great friend, the Oscar-nominated Shropshire actor Pete Postlethwaite. He has only the fondest of memories. "I did my first TV with him as well, which was tales of Sherwood Forest. Then I think when the opportunity came up to do my first feature film, Brassed Off, Pete put a word in and we ended up as father and son. There was a tremendous honesty about his performances. When it was just he and I sharing a scene, you could stare into Pete's face and he could make everything else disappear."

Chemistry – Stephen, Nigel and Denis in the award-winnning Art

The new version of Art is being produced by David Pugh and Dafydd Rogers and Pugh says it's an honour to get to grips with the world-leading show.

He says: "It is 20 years since Dafydd [Rogers] and I first produced the comedy masterpiece ART in the West End, and the original post-London tour played for 78 weeks. This time, we want to break our own record; in fact, we want to play as many theatres as Sir Ken Dodd has played in his wonderful career, and with this marvellous cast, we think we have every chance."

Nigel Havers's films include Chariots of Fire, A Passage to India, Empire of the Sun and The Whistle Blower. He has starred in many television productions, including The Charmer, Dangerfield, Manchild, and, more recently, the hit US series Brothers and Sisters, Lewis Archer in Coronation Street, Benidorm and Lord Hepworth in Downton Abbey.

Denis Lawson is known for his roles as John Jarndyce in the BBC's adaptation of Bleak House, for which he was nominated for an EMMY award, and as DI Steve McAndrew in BBC One's hit series New Tricks. In film, his notable credits include the roles of Gordon Urquhart in the film Local Hero and Wedge Antilles in the original Star Wars trilogy. On stage, he won an Olivier Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his performance as Jim Lancastar in Mr Cinders at the Fortune Theatre, and he was nominated for an Olivier for his performance as George in La Cages Aux Folles at the Playhouse Theatre.

> *There was a magic chemistry between the three actors . . . the writing's good*

Andy Richardson

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Legally Blonde The Musical

OMG, you guys, this show has got blonde ambition

A star cast features in a smash hit West End musical that will have audiences saying 'oh my God you guys' at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week.

Legally Blonde The Musical is based on a novel by Amanda Brown that was adapted into a movie starring Reece Witherspoon in 2001.

It tells the tale of a beautiful and popular sorority sister Elle Woods who loves to be pampered and is passionate about pink.

But when she is dumped by her boyfriend Warner Huntingdon III for a more serious girlfriend she puts down the credit cards and picks up the books. Packing up her trusty pooch, Bruiser, she bags herself a place at the prestigious Harvard Law School to try to win him back. With the support of her new friends she learns that you can be both smart and fashionable.

Star of the show as Elle is Lucie Jones, who represented the UK at last year's Eurovision Song Contest with Never Give Up On You and recently starred as Maureen in the 20th anniversary tour of Rent. She has played Elle Woods before in the Leicester Curve production and was a finalist in the 2009 series of The X Factor.

Alongside her playing Paulette Bonafonte, is Rita Simons, best known as EastEnders' Roxy Mitchell. Professor Callahan is played by Bill Ward who is a familiar face from both Emmerdale and Coronation Street. Legally Blonde The Musical runs at the Alex from Monday to Saturday.

Singer Scott free to make new start

THE horizon has changed dramatically since Wolverhampton's Ivor Novello-Award Winning singer-songwriter Scott Matthews broke through with the release of his first album, Passing Stranger, in 2006.

He's toured the world, been lauded by critics and become a pal of Robert Plant and Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl. His breakout single, Elusive, earned him a battalion of fans, won awards and saw him signed to one of the UK's biggest record labels.

These day he does things differently. He makes his music in the shed at the bottom of his garden and his record company is no longer Island – it's his own appropriately-named Shedio Records. He's taken back control.

Matthews will headline Birmingham's St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter on Sunday, following the release of his new album, The Great Untold. The record follows his recent Home I and Home II sequence and marks the dawn of a new era for the performer. On his sixth record, Matthews has created songs that are audacious in their simplicity.

The richness in Matthews' new work comes from subtle playing and mellifluous melodies. He has improved again.

In many ways, The Great Untold is the start of a new era for Matthews, the star of bluesy acoustica has refined his craft.

He said: " It can be a very isolating existence to sit in pitch black at the bottom of the garden recording songs when everyone has gone to bed. But to know you have the fans with you every step, always encouraging and asking what's going on, makes a huge difference"

Gaz's new album is a bit of Alright

Former Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes is back with his third solo album, World's Strongest Man, which is positive proof that Noel Gallagher isn't the only Britpop veteran still making great music.

The follow-up to 2015's Matador sees Coombes genre hop between sublime pop, driving motorik rock and funky soul with songs that run the gamut from the raucous raw to blissed-out psychedelia. The Oxford-born singer-songwriter has a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on Monday.

Let musical lift you up where you belong

Theatre highlights – apart from Art (see left) and Legally Blonde The Musical (above) – include An Officer and a Gentleman The Musical at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Based on the romantic Richard Gere movie, the feel-good 1980s pop hits promise to let love lift you up where you belong. A quartet of classical musicians and quartet of actors – including Cathy Tyson (Band of Gold/Mona Lisa) and Miltos Yerolemou (Game of Thrones/Murder on the Orient Express) – unite in The String Quartet's Guide To Sex And Anxiety, a challenging new production from radical Spanish director Calixto Bieito at Birmingham Rep until Saturday. Grand Arena Youth Theatre presents Delivered Dozen: A Miners' Tale, the true story of a Victorian Black Country mining disaster at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday.

Vesuvio
Italian Restaurant

Tuesday - Sunday
LUNCH AND DINNER

Tuesday - Sunday
LUNCH
2 courses £13.95
& Glass of Prosecco £15.95
3 courses £15.95
& Glass of Prosecco £17.95

Tuesday - Thursday
DINNER
2 courses £13.95
& Glass of Prosecco £15.95
3 courses £15.95
& Glass of Prosecco £17.95

Friday - Saturday
DINNER
3 courses £19.95

Cocktails, Wines, Spirits, Beers, Liquers and Soft Drinks all available

Victoria Passage, Stourbridge DY8 1DP
www.vesuvioitalianrestaurant.co.uk
Tel: 01384 422119

BT Sport

THE ASHWOOD INN

Your local entertainment centre

Function room seating 120, with full bar dance floor and stage area

Local Band FRONT COVERS Saturday 19th May
£5 On The Door

BUFFETS
of any size catered for hot or cold for all tastes
Private lounge room for up to 70 people

Birthdays, anniversaries, wakes, christenings, meetings all catered for

2 Sandringham Pl, Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5HP
See our FB page or call on numbers below for more information
T: 01384 295083 or M: 07814 674325

SATURDAY'S TV MAY 19

CHOICE

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle (BBC1, 9am)

Kirsty Young, Huw Edwards and Dermot O'Leary present live coverage of the ceremony, which takes place at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Following the service, the newlyweds will begin their celebrations with a carriage procession around the streets of Windsor, accompanied by soldiers from the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry, where thousands will be cheering them on. Tina Daheley, Alex Jones, Ore Oduba and Anita Rani will be on hand to capture all the stories and reactions on a day of national celebration.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Royal Wedding: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. **2.00** Football Focus. **3.00** Mourinho & Manchester, United. **3.20** FA Cup: The Road To Wembley. (R) **3.50** BBC News. **4.00** Regional Programme. **4.10** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. All the build-up to today's final. **5.00** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup, Chelsea v Manchester United (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.40 Pointless Celebrities. Rich Hall, Shappi Khorsandi, Sian Lloyd, Fred MacAulay, Mark King, Stuart Maconie, Chemmy Alcott and Amy Williams all take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz show. (R)

8.30 Casualty. Iain and Sam receive a sharp greeting from unconventional new operations manager Jan Jennings. Ethan and Connie clash over the low staff levels resulting from Bea's resignation.

9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's. New series. Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host the Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a studio audience. In this first episode, Mrs Brown welcomes EastEnders hard-man Danny Dyer, boxer and former I'm a Celebrity contestant Amir Khan, and TV presenter Kate Humble. Music is provided by Tito Jackson, the third-eldest of the legendary Jackson family.

10.20 BBC News; Weather,; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Match of the Day: The FA Cup. Chelsea v Manchester United. Highlights of the final, which took place at Wembley Stadium, as Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho's men battled it out for the famous trophy.

11.25 The Button. Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, as they compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)

11.55 Film: The Wedding Video. (2012) A would-be film-maker decides to document his brother's wedding on video, only to be met by a series of disasters. Comedy, with Rufus Hound and Lucy Punch.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.00** SAS: Rogue Warriors. (R) **12.00 Film:** Tron: Legacy, (2010) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jeff Bridges. **2.00** The World According to Kids. (R) **3.00** Love in the Countryside. (R) **4.00** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. (R) **5.00** The Forest. **5.30** Pangolins – The World's Most Wanted Animal. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's platoon tries to raise money for the local Spitfire fund by having a bash at morris dancing. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

7.00 The Royal Wedding: Highlights of the Day. Kirsty Young, Huw Edwards and Dermot O'Leary reflect on the key moments from today's event. They look back on highlights of the ceremony, the arrival of guests including the Queen and senior members of the Royal Family, and the first glimpse of the bride in her dress. The presenters are joined in the studio by some of those lucky enough to have attended the celebrations, and by those who played a significant part in the day.

8.30 Motty Mastermind. The retiring football commentator hosts a special edition of the general knowledge quiz, with Alex Scott, Anthony Crolla, Jonathan Pearce, and Mark Foster answering questions.

9.00 Motty – The Man Behind the Sheepskin. An insight into the career of football commentator John Motson, who is retiring this season after 50 years at the BBC.

10.05 Countdown to the Full Motty. Gary Lineker presents a selection of John Motson's greatest football commentaries, featuring contributions from players involved in some of those memorable moments.

10.35 Film: The Damned United. (2009) Fact-based drama chronicling Brian Clough's fraught and controversial 44-day tenure as manager of Leeds United in 1974. Starring Michael Sheen, Timothy Spall and Jim Broadbent.

12.05 Film: False Trail. (2011) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Harry and Meghan – The Royal Wedding. **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in part two of the obstacle-course challenge's semi-final, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Chef Rosemary Shrager, Radio 2 DJ Liza Tarbuck, Doctor Who's fifth Doctor Peter Davison and X Factor stalwart Louis Walsh join the comedian for the madcap panel show.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the sixth audition round of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. Whomever the quartet choose to send through to the live stages will then be in with a chance of winning a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance later this year, following in the footsteps of 2017 winner Tokio Myers.

9.20 The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon teams up with Paddy McGuinness to remake Steven Spielberg's 1993 classic Jurassic Park, with help from Sian Gibson, Sally Phillips and George Potts. Last in the series.

9.50 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Jaws 3. (1983) A ferocious mother shark comes looking for her dead baby, causing havoc in a Florida marine centre. Thriller sequel, starring Dennis Quaid, Simon MacCorkindale and Louis Gossett Jr.

12.15 Change Your Tune. (R) **1.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Mobil 1: The Grid. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets neurologists Penny Talelli and Mark Edwards, who plan to combine their love of old and contemporary architecture as they transform a derelict Victorian gatehouse in North London. However, the pair soon find themselves struggling to balance their busy working lives alongside project managing the build. (R)

8.00 Titanic: The New Evidence. Investigative journalist and Titanic expert Senan Molony examines recently recovered photographs of the doomed ship, which provide fresh insight into the reasons for its sinking. The images reveal a strange mark on the hull, which may prove previously overlooked stories of a fire raging in the boiler room. (R)

9.00 Film: The Martian. (2015) Premiere. A manned mission to Mars is abruptly abandoned, with one crew member left for dead. However, the astronaut has survived and faces a series of challenges – to contact Earth and arrange his rescue and to survive for the years it will take for a spacecraft to reach him on resources intended to last a month. Ridley Scott's sci-fi drama based on the novel by Andy Weir, starring Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

11.50 Film: Sinister 2. (2015) Premiere. A mother tries to protect her two sons from an evil spirit, while the ghost of its victims urge the boys to kill. Horror sequel, with Shannyn Sossamon.

1.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star. (R) **5.25** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.45** Britain's Greatest Bridges. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Harry and Meghan: A Royal Romance. **4.00** Access. **4.05** Harry and Meghan: A Royal Romance. **4.40** 5 News Weekend. **4.45** FIA Formula E Live. The Berlin ePrix.

6.30 Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht. Part one of two. Rob Bell examines iconic ships that have played significant roles in Britain's maritime and cultural history, beginning with the Royal Yacht Britannia. (R)

7.20 The Queen Mary: Cruising with the Royals. Part two of two. Rob Bell examines RMS Queen Mary, the most famous ocean liner ever built and the first merchant naval ship ever to have been launched by a reigning sovereign. Built in the throes of the Great Depression, the Queen Mary lifted a nation out of an economic slump and re-established Britain as the greatest shipbuilding nation on Earth. (R)

8.20 Elizabeth I: Battle for the Throne. Drama-documentary about Elizabeth I, featuring reconstructions of key moments in her reign starring Lily Cole. The first episode follows her rise to the throne. (R)

9.20 Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. New series. Documentary following the story of the monarch after the death of her husband Albert, examining how her children rebelled against their mother one by one.

10.20 Harry and Meghan: A Royal Romance. Drama telling the love story of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, from the moment they met to their engagement and beyond. (R)

11.20 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.

11.25 Harry and Meghan: A Royal Romance. Drama telling the love story of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, from the moment they met to their engagement and beyond. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** The Snake Skin Woman: Extraordinary People. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Nature's Epic Journeys **8.00** Tales from the Royal Bedchamber **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **11.50** Britain's Treasure Islands **12.50** Caravans: A British Love Affair **1.50** Nature's Epic Journeys **2.50** Tales from the Royal Bedchamber **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.25 Britain's Got More Talent **12.25** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.35 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **4.45 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **6.45 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** Pacific Rim (2013) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Plebs **2.00** CelebAbility **2.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.00 A Touch of Frost **3.25** Columbo **5.30** Royal Stories **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Harry and Meghan – The Royal Wedding **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.20 Snooker v Darts **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.00 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **6.05** Mr Bean **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** The Blues Brothers (1980) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.40 Film:** Unknown (2011) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Unknown (2011) **1.55** The Avengers **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

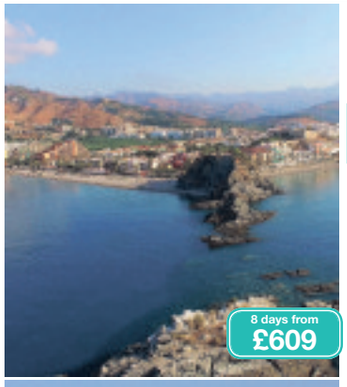
1.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Battleship (2012) **10.35** Gogglebox **12.40** The Inbetweeners **1.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.50** Rude Tube **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **4.35** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Silent Running (1972) **1.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.45** Carry On Spying (1964) **4.30** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **6.30** The Fault in Our Stars (2014) **9.00** Ted 2 (2015) **11.15** Gangster No 1 (2000) **1.20** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **3.30** Close

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Preferred Travel Services



8 days from £609

Andalucia's Eastern Coast – Granada & Almeria

Flying Direct from Birmingham

Departs Jun 7 & selected dates Oct 2018 to Mar 2019

On this holiday, not only will you visit the Alhambra in Granada, but also Almeria. Your base is the coastal city of Almunecar. The wonderful sub-tropical climate will help you enjoy the city's rich artistic and cultural heritage. In and around Almunecar the sierras plunge spectacularly into the sea and you will find no less than 25 beaches and coves within its boundary.

Price includes

- Return direct flights from Birmingham
- 7 nights 4* HB accommodation on the coast in Taramay, Almunecar
- Included excursions to Granada and the Alhambra and to Almeria
- Option to extend your holiday by another week
- Services of a tour representative

8 days from £769

Walking in Menorca

Flying Direct from Birmingham

Departs Oct 5 2018

The island of Menorca may be just 30 miles long and 10 miles across, but it hosts a world of contrasts. The north is comparatively lush and green, with extensive bays and long headlands. The south is much rockier and riddled with caves. At the eastern end lies the island's capital Mahon, a historic city well worth exploring. But it is the island's unspoilt beaches and coves that may impress you most of all: our resort area of Son Bou is home to one of the best of them.

Price includes

- Return direct flights from Birmingham
- 7 nights HB hotel accommodation in Menorca
- 3 included guided walks
- Transportation to walks as required
- Option to extend by 7 nights
- Services of a tour representative

Organised by Preferred Travel Services. ABTA No. W3692. Atol No. 5537. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: 0116 279 3929 quote WEXP or visit: www.preferredts.com/wexp

HALF PRICE
SUBSCRIPTION OFFER
JUST £2.00 PER MONTH (INC. P&P)

To subscribe call our free customer care hotline on 0800 146 540

Overseas 12-month gift subscriptions are available from: Europe £73.56, rest of the world £110.76 (Includes P&P, Direct Debit or Pre-payment)

WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

SUNDAY'S TV MAY 20

CHOICE

Ben Whishaw stars

A Very English Scandal (BBC1, 9pm)
The last time most viewers saw – or at least heard – Ben Whishaw and Hugh Grant together, it was in 2017's most charming film, Paddington 2. Whishaw provided the voice of the marmalade-loving bear and Grant was the scene-stealing villain, actor Phoenix Buchanan. But now they've reunited for a rather different project as they take the lead roles in the three-part drama A Very English Scandal. It's based on the true story of politician Jeremy Thorpe (Grant), who was accused of conspiracy to murder his former lover Norman Scott (Whishaw) – and there isn't a talking bear in sight. For writer Russell T Davies, who adapted the drama from the book by John Preston, it's dream casting.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** Match of the Day: The FA Cup. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Feel the Spirit – A Jazz Celebration Service for Pentecost. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.10** Points of View. **2.25** Songs of Praise. **3.00 Film:** Cinderella. (2015) Romantic fantasy, starring Lily James. **4.35** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.
6.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018. New series. Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift present a preview of the Royal Horticultural Society's event for 2018 and a guide to some of the gardens on display. Nick Knowles presents a special showcase of gardens created to raise awareness on current issues, while Floella Benjamin introduces a look at an exhibit celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Windrush generation and charting their influence on British culture. Adam Frost and Carol Klein take a look at some of the other entries, revisiting some familiar faces from past shows.
7.00 Countryfile. A round-up of rural reports focused on spring, including Matt Baker visiting a garden designed to celebrate the show's 30th anniversary for this year's Hampton Court Flower Show.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second visit to the Black Country Living Museum, where items brought in include a surrealist painting and one of the rarest guns featured on the show.
9.00 A Very English Scandal. New series. Fact-based drama, starring Hugh Grant as Jeremy Thorpe, the leader of the Liberal Party in the 1960s and 1970s who was accused of conspiring to murder his lover.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Imagine: Rupert Everett. Behind the scenes on the actor's 10-year journey of writing, directing and starring in a film telling the story of Oscar Wilde's last years.
11.35 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.20** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.50** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.50** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.30** Great Manchester Run. **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **4.00** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **5.00** Great Manchester Run Highlights.
6.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the merits of a former bricklayer's mortar-board invention, a mother-of-two's child-tracking device, and a 25-year-old designer's wheelchair accessory. (R)
7.00 Million Pound Menu. Fred Sirieix presents the fine dining challenge which follows people who work in the food business as they seek major investment to launch their own restaurants. (R)
8.00 Neanderthals: Meet Your Ancestors. Part two of two. Archaeologist Ella Al-Shamahi and actor Andy Serkis examine the reasons neanderthals became extinct, and their surviving influence on modern humans.
9.00 Burma with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon ventures into Burma's highlands, where he attends a fire balloon festival, visits an elephant sanctuary, and goes in search of a rebel army.
10.00 Atlanta. Earn spends all his money to get Paper Boi's song played on the radio, leaving him with no cash for his date with Van. Meanwhile, Alfred and Darius get deeper into the drugs trade.
10.25 Atlanta. Paper Boi becomes agitated by the state of his online profile, and Earn continues to struggle with money troubles. Drama, starring Donald Glover.
10.50 Later Weekend with Jools Holland. Manic Street Preachers perform numbers from their new album, Resistance is Futile. The host also welcomes Boy Azooga, Gwenno, Melissa Laveaux, Ray LaMontagne, and Ben Howard.
11.50 Film: Burke & Hare. (2010) Two 19th-century grave robbers resort to murder to provide a doctor with fresh bodies for his anatomy lectures. Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg and Andy Serkis.
1.15 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Sunday. **9.25** Countrywise. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.15** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **2.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs – India. (R) **3.00** Change Your Tune. **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)
6.00 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Chef Rosemary Shrager, Radio 2 DJ Liza Tarbuck, Doctor Who's fifth Doctor Peter Davison and X Factor stalwart Louis Walsh join the comedian for the madcap panel show. (R)
6.30 ITV News; Weather.
6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.
7.00 Little Big Shots. Dawn French meets a Bavarian musician, an aspiring guitarist and a three-year-old who is the youngest guest to appear on the show.
8.00 Midsomer Murders. Musicians compete for a prestigious award at the annual Thassingham Classical Music Festival – and Barnaby and Winter are called in when the winner is brutally murdered and his priceless violin is stolen. Suspicion rapidly falls on the maestro organising the festival, who had planned to debut his new composition at the event and has stirred up resentment by turning a community festival into a corporate one – while many suspect that the murder is the result of a curse. Guest starring James Fleet and Simon Callow. Last in the series.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.20 This Time Next Year. Davina McCall meets a wheelchair user who has vowed to walk again. Last in the series. (R)
12.10 Great Art. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.35** Eat the Week. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.50 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen 2. (2005) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Martin. **4.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.40** Grand Designs. (R)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Christmas at the Chateau. Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree await the arrival of their guests, who are expecting a luxurious Christmas at the chateau. Dick continues work on installing the lift, but the project tests his ingenuity to the limit, while Angel finds more valuables in the attic, including a collection of vinyl records. (R)
8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. The four remaining teams are challenged to demonstrate their skills with chocolate, and for the first challenge, they must rely on their patisserie knowledge to succeed in a test where the recipe is a secret. They must then produce a showpiece on the theme of masked balls, which must incorporate two types of filled and moulded chocolates and a moving part.
9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. New series. The dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel returns. Offred reckons with the consequences of a dangerous decision while haunted by memories from her past and the violent beginnings of Gilead.
10.15 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.10 First Dates. Butler Kit wants to meet a man who shares his passion for the royal family, and football-mad James hopes to get the royal seal of approval from Kate Middleton lookalike Jodie. (R)
12.15 Film: The Perks of Being a Wallflower. (2012) Coming-of-age drama, starring Logan Lerman. **2.00** Meet the Markles. Amelia Dimoldenberg tries to win herself an invite to Harry and Meghan's wedding. (R) **2.55** Best Laid Plans. (R) **3.50** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **4.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **5.10** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.20** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. **12.20** Funniest Ever Crazy Cats. (R) **1.20 Film:** Garfield. (2004) **2.20** Access. **2.25 Film:** Garfield. (2004) Concluded. **2.55 Film:** Batteries Not Included. (1987) **3.55** 5 News Update. **4.00 Film:** Batteries Not Included. (1987) Concluded. **5.05 Film:** The Lego Movie. (2014)
6.05 Access. Showbiz news and gossip.
6.10 Film: The Lego Movie. (2014) Concluded.
7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! In Bedfordshire, agents Paul and Steve try to evict a community of travellers who have set up home in a private car park. Elsewhere, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt of over £3,000. (R)
7.55 5 News Update.
8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The enforcement agents try to mediate a dispute in a takeaway, and deal with rent evaders living in potentially deadly conditions. Plus, a businessman faces ruin. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Top of the Box 1985 with Matthew Kelly. New series. The presenter takes a look back at the most popular TV from a past year, beginning with 1985, featuring 'Allo 'Allo!, Bullseye, Name that Tune and Crossroads.
11.00 Film: Role Models. (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.
1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Great Artists. (R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Atlantis – The Evidence **8.00** How to Build a Nuclear Submarine **9.00** The Greatest Tomb On Earth: Secrets of Ancient China **10.00** Dina **11.35** British Gardens in Time: Great Dixter **12.35** Science and Islam **1.35** Atlantis – The Evidence **2.35** How to Build a Nuclear Submarine **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out Celebrity Special **12.40 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **1.40** FYI Daily **1.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Weddings **3.50** Britain's Got Talent **5.05** Britain's Got More Talent **6.05 Film:** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **8.00 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **10.25** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
5.00 Harry and Meghan – The Royal Wedding **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Cilla **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.10** Blue Murder **2.25** Liverpool 1 **3.20** Road to Avonlea **5.00** George and Mildred **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Coverage of round three from Thruxton. **6.00** UEFA European U17 Championship Live. Coverage of the final (Kick-off 6.15pm). **8.30** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **11.15 Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **1.25** Minder **2.30** Tommy Cooper **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** Young Sheldon **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Shamy's Story **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** The Purge (2013) **11.40** The Inbetweeners **12.55** The Big Bang Theory **1.50** Rude Tube **2.50** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **2.35** Dunston Checks In (1996) **4.20** The Dam Busters (1955) **6.50** Paper Towns (2015) **9.00** The Heat (2013) **11.20** Extract (2010) **1.10** The Second Mother (2015) **3.30** Close

Omega
UK Breaks By Coach
from Stourbridge

FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW
Departing Saturday 21 Jul

Join us for the Farnborough Air Show – a must-attend event!

Your break includes
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
✔ General Admission ticket to the Farnborough International Airshow
✔ Return coach transfer from the hotel to the Farnborough International Airshow

2 Days By Coach only £149

THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS
& Liverpool
Departing Saturday 28 Jul

Enjoy a unique opportunity to see the extraordinary Terracotta Warriors which return to the UK this year.

Your break includes
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 1 night DBB at our selected hotel, North West area
✔ Entrance to the Terracotta Warriors exhibition at the World Museum, Liverpool

2 Days By Coach only £115

Coach package holidays are subject to Omega Holidays terms and conditions and are protected by a bond held with ABTA (No.V4782). Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

BOOK TODAY DON'T MISS OUT!
0330 013 0112 omegabreaks.com/ROP
Quote ROPOM
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

SHEET MATERIALS AND D.I.Y SPECIALISTS
• Rough Sawn & Planed Timber • MDF Skirting
• Architrave • Cladding • Stair Parts
• Tongue & Groove • Chip Board • Plaster Board
• Trellis • Decking • Fence paint
BEST PRICES CALL 01384 78857

NEW
Garden maintenance, fencing, slabbing, tidy ups
No job too small • Free quotation
Call 07715 453911

Bird Boxes, Bird Tables Now In

Robins Timber COMPANY
Established 80 years *Trade and public welcome
Every Kind of Timber for every Kind of Job
Canalside Ind Estate, Wedgbury Way, Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, DY5 3JZ
New website: www.robinstimber.com
Open: 7.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat

ASHWOOD NURSERIES
NURSERY | TEA ROOM | GIFT SHOP | GARDEN CENTRE

Spring into Summer
1st May-30th June
Create a garden full of COLOUR with us

Now in stock
A great selection of Summer Bedding and Basket Plants

ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM
Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE | 01384 401996
Opening Hours: Mon to Sat 8.30am – 5:30pm
Sundays & Bank Holidays: 9am – 5:30pm

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Murder, She Baked: Just Desserts, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Amateur sleuth Hannah Swensen is thrilled when she is chosen as a guest expert for the first Eden Lake Dessert Bake-Off, but when fellow judge Leonard Bishop is found murdered, she once again takes it upon herself to find herself to find the killer. Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney. (2017)

TUESDAY
Fatal Performance, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An aspiring actress, working as a waitress, is offered a lucrative contract to impersonate the wife of a businessman during a prestigious reception event in their home. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
Hummingbird, Channel 5, 11pm
A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. (2013)

Hummingbird, Wednesday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY
Killer Switch, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman accidentally picks up the wrong suitcase from the airport baggage reclaim on her way to her daughter's graduation. Later, she receives a phone call from a man claiming he will harm her daughter if she fails to follow his instructions to return his suitcase. Thriller, starring Jamie Luner. (2016)

FRIDAY
Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Newlywed Jade returns from her honeymoon to discover her recently widowed father has been seduced by the caregiver she hired to look after him in her absence. The strange situation becomes even more suspicious when Jade's dad suddenly dies from a fall, and when the young woman finds out her new step-mother is the sole beneficiary of a recently amended will, she becomes convinced a murder has taken place. Thriller, with Emmanuelle Vaugier. (2016)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Marking 70 years of the National Health Service

On July 5, 1948, the Labour Government's Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan launched the National Health Service at Park Hospital in Manchester.

It was the climax of a hugely ambitious plan to bring good healthcare to all, cradle to grave.

For the first time, hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists were brought together under one umbrella organisation to provide services that are free for all at the point of delivery.

Today, the NHS in England and Wales is one of the largest employers in the world, employing around 1.3 million people – approximately one in 23 of the working population.

Each month, 23 million people visit their GP surgery or practice nurse, and in a typical week, 1.4 million people will receive help in their home from the service.

NHS ambulances make over 50,000 emergency journeys each week, while NHS 111 handles 20,000 calls a day or eight million a year.

The UK's first heart transplant took place in May 1968 at the National Heart Hospital in Marylebone, London, while 10 years later, the world's first test-tube baby Louise Joy Brown was born at Oldham General Hospital.

However, there have also been setbacks, and during this century alone there have been outbreaks of MRSA and Clostridium difficile, growing waiting lists and the Alder Hey organs scandal.

Nevertheless, one thing's for sure, we all owe a massive debt to the devoted medics and staff who make a massive difference to our lives every day.

And to mark the NHS's 70th anniversary this summer, Paul O'Grady is hosting a glittering awards show at London's Hilton Park Lane tonight.

Major stars from the worlds of showbiz, sport and politics, including Prince William, the Duchess of Cornwall, Elton John, Shirley Bassey, Simon Cowell, Tom Jones, Amanda Holden and Boy George will be in attendance, as the people who have made the service what it is are celebrated.

"We've all experienced the NHS at some stage, myself included," O'Grady admits.

"I'm thrilled and delighted to be hosting the new NHS Heroes Awards as this wonderful institution celebrates its 70th year.

"We will be honouring the incredible medical staff and also the dedicated work of porters, cleaners and of course the army of volunteers without whom the NHS could not function."

As NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens explains, the evening should be a fitting way to pay honour the unsung heroes: "It's great that the Mirror and ITV have come together to pay tribute to NHS staff in this, our 70th anniversary year.

"There has never been a better time to recognise the extraordinary care they deliver every day."

Paul O'Grady hosts The NHS Heroes Awards, Monday, ITV, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Manchester: A Year of Hate Crimes
Channel 4, 10.35pm
Documentary filmed over the past year in Greater Manchester at a time when the city experienced its worst terror attack in living memory – the Manchester Arena bombing. The fallout from that added to existing tensions in one of the country's most multicultural regions and this programme takes viewers to the frontline of racial and religious hatred as police officers respond to hundreds of reports a month, and also hears from community leaders attempting to deal with abuse and heal the divides.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden: NHS Special
ITV, 8pm
Alan Titchmarsh and his team create a garden for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. This gargantuan effort is in response to letters from young patients, some of whom were victims of the nearby Manchester Arena bombing, requesting an outdoor space for patients, families and staff to seek respite in. The host meets the youngsters who wrote to him, some with life-threatening conditions and others like Lily Harrison who was treated by the hospital after receiving shrapnel wounds at the Ariana Grande concert a year ago.

Manchester: The Night of the Bomb
BBC2, 9pm
May 22nd, 2017 should have been a peaceful spring night for music lovers desperate to see their idol. Then a Manchester-born man detonated a homemade bomb at an Ariana Grande pop concert, killing 22 people and himself. The atrocity at Manchester Arena was Britain's deadliest terrorist attack since the London bombings of July 7, 2005. In this moving documentary, cameras reveal the story of that night through the eyes of teenage girls who survived the attack and key members of the emergency services.

WEDNESDAY
The Secret Life of the Zoo
Channel 4, 8pm
In the final episode of the series, keepers prepare for the difficult task of transporting Giraffe Kidepo to a new zoo, and Kidepo's brother Narus is not making the move any easier. Meanwhile, silvery gibbon Alvin is keen to get close to his partner Tilu again, and after diving headfirst into an empty pool one too many times, keepers decide a trip to the vet is in order for caiman lizard Gary to see if there is an underlying problem. Elsewhere, dominant warthog Magnum is being challenged by fellow warthog Dobby, so keepers decide it is time to move Dobby to a zoo in Germany.

THURSDAY
Channel 4, 9pm
Continuing the sci-fi drama set in a parallel world where synthetic humanoids try to live side by side with real people. Following a police raid at the Railyard, a grieving Max must deal with the fallout of his life-or-death decision – and things only get more difficult for the leader when rebel Synth Agnes begins an anti-human campaign. Laura discovers a secret operation that could threaten Synth survival, Leo's recovery takes a surprising turn and Joe discovers Karen and Sam's secret – has their cover been blown?

High & Dry, Friday, Channel 4, 10.30pm

FRIDAY
The Bridge
BBC2, 9pm
Swedish journalist and radical left-wing expert Richard Dahlqvist broadcasts live on the internet, denying Red October's involvement in the murder. Saga and Henrik question him, finding what he is says is wide of the truth. They also continue to question Taariq, though finding him unwilling to cooperate form a plan to expose him. The duo search the homeless Danish girls' hiding place, finding evidence that directs them to new lead. Scandinavian crime drama, in Danish and Swedish, starring Sofia Helin and Thure Lindhardt.

High & Dry
Channel 4, 10.30pm
As we reach the fourth episode of Marc Wootton's sitcom, it's clear that the tropical island that our castaways are stranded on is no paradise. Yet Brett (Wootton) is shocked this week to discover that Doug (Harry Peacock) would still like to be rescued and is planning to build a raft to reach what he thinks is a nearby inhabited island, as spied through the telescopic lens on a salvaged camera. Meanwhile, Susan (Grace Rex) has just be spurned by Douglas – can Brett take advantage of her vulnerable state.

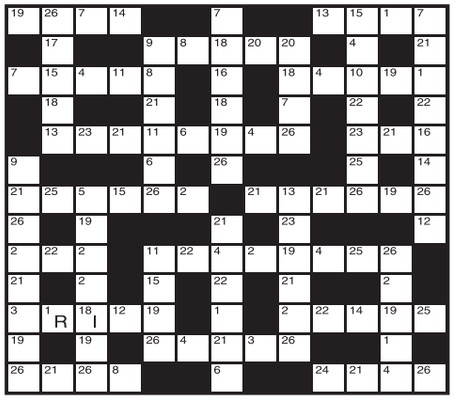
BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS
WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO
1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?
CALL 01902 319730
Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising
MNA DIGITAL

BRAIN GYM

No.480

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

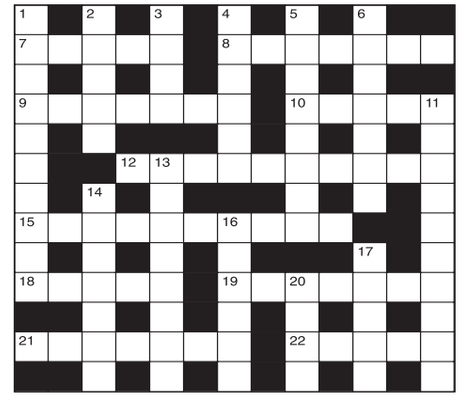


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	J	D	G	Q	M	C	E	Y	B	V	K	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	F	T	L	H	X	O	I	S	P	U	W	R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. No reverse charge for a cause of tears (5)
8. Difficulty of initially taking Russian money (7)
9. Present at present, but not in any place (7)
10. He apparently marks his choice wrong (5)
12. Compels to study 4s (10)
15. He has lots to sell (10)
18. Top of 4 cut off hair (5)
19. Ruth upset general (7)
21. Study kind husband (7)
22. Consumed some of the fare at English hotel (5)

Down

1. Neutralise what the shopkeeper did? (10)
2. What wives think? (5)
3. 100 in 1 x 1 (4)
4. Accent obvious in tension? (6)
5. The opposite of 'to study poetry'? (8)
6. To the sailor, it's an awful thing not to indulge (7)
11. Nature's art as found in eating place (10)
13. Errand for nothing, perhaps, was an oversight (8)
14. Shows films behind which one may hide (7)
16. Deny entrance to the north-east (6)
17. In which more than one become one (5)
20. Paradise - an oriental vice-spot (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Drone (5)
8. Vocation (7)
9. Frequenter (7)
10. Very swift (5)
12. Insignificance (10)
15. Artifice (10)
18. Cede (5)
19. Voter (7)
21. Narration (7)
22. Fluctuation (5)

Down

1. Falsehood (10)
2. Sphere (5)
3. Worry (4)
4. Receive (6)
5. Ominous (8)
6. Easier (7)
11. Deter (10)
13. Tale (8)
14. Non-attendance (7)
16. Weak (6)
17. Blemish (5)
20. Otherwise (4)

Sudoku

		6		2			5	
2					9		7	
	3		6		8			4
	1	9				8		
4				8			3	1
		3			5	7	9	
3			2		1			7
		1	5					2
	6			7		9	1	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	5	3	1	7	8	6	2	4
7	8	6	3	2	4	9	5	1
4	1	2	9	6	5	3	8	7
1	6	7	2	3	9	5	4	8
2	4	8	5	1	6	7	3	9
3	9	5	4	8	7	2	1	6
6	3	4	7	5	1	8	9	2
5	7	9	8	4	2	1	6	3
8	2	1	6	9	3	4	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cast about; 8 Hoe; 9 Redoubtable; 11 Eastern; 12 Their; 13 Utopia; 15 Instep; 17 Aunts; 18 Therapy; 20 Cold-hearted; 22 Oft; 23 Nurseries. Down: 2 Awe; 3 Amuse; 4 Outing; 5 Tibetan; 6 The best part; 7 Geography; 10 Disconnects; 11 Education; 14 Insulin; 16 Etcher; 19 Erase; 21 Eve.
QUICK - Across: 1 Impotence; 8 Own; 9 Inclination; 11 Abridge; 12 Odour; 13 Crowds; 15 Device; 17 Spool; 18 Mistake; 20 Advancement; 22 Out; 23 Restfully. Down: 2 Man; 3 Tried; 4 Nearer; 5 Episode; 6 Consolidate; 7 Interfere; 10 Corroborate; 11 Accession; 14 Deliver; 16 Amends; 19 Shelf; 21 Nil.

Quiz

1. How many players are there in a Rugby League team?
2. Which island's parliament is called the Chief Pleas?
3. Who plays David Brent in the BBC sitcom 'The Office'?
4. Who was the last viceroy of India?
5. Which former political leader's first names are Jeremy John Durham?
6. Whose novel 'Dr Zhivago' was first published in Italy in 1957?
7. What type of animal is a tarsier?
8. What is the meaning of the title of Wagner's opera 'Götterdämmerung'?
9. Which volcano's name is Aztec for 'smoking mountain'?
10. Which disease used to be called consumption?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Suffolk; 2 Gooseberry; 3 Humber Bridge; 4 Bud Flanagan; 5 Asgard; 6 Tony Booth; 7 Basingstoke; 8 Blackbird; 9 Rome; 10 Genetics.

Niner: DEFIANTLY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

145587 gives a fish,
1499859 gives shellfish,
7263 gives an amphibian.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Just Go! Holidays

© Bob Green

The Royal Scot Steam Train
& the Railway Children
Departing Sunday 24 Jun
From Dudley
Price Includes...
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 1 night DBB at a selected hotel
✔ Royal Scot steam train journey on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
2 Days By Coach — now only £115

Portmeirion
& Little Trains of North Wales
Departing Monday 9 Jul
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge
Price Includes...
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 4 nights DBB at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl
✔ Entertainment on some nights
✔ Heritage journeys on the Welsh Highland Railway, Great Orme Tramway & Ffestiniog Railway
✔ Excursions to Caernarfon, Llandudno & Portmeirion (including entrance)
5 Days By Coach — now only £265

Liverpool
Cilla & the Beatles
Departing Monday 6 Aug
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge
Price Includes...
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 4 nights DBB at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool (all meals buffet style)
✔ Guided city tour of Liverpool
✔ Ferry trip on the River Mersey
✔ Excursion to Southport
5 Days By Coach — now only £275

Historic Durham
Beamish & Captain Cook's Whitby
Departing Thursday 9 Aug
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge
Price Includes...
✔ Return coach travel
✔ 4 nights DBB at the Jury's Inn, Middlesbrough
✔ Excursions to Durham, Beamish Living Museum & Whitby
5 Days By Coach — now only £275

Coach package holidays are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions which are based on the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: 03332 341 875 Quote JGRT
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.
or visit us online at justgoholidays.com/RT

Blockbuster you don't want to miss

IT used to be a movie rental shop. Now it is a blockbusting Asian restaurant.

Under the direction of Ruhel Ahmed, Panshi has made a 'reel' impact since it premiered at the former Blockbuster store in Hayes Way, Heath Hayes, next to Tesco, around 15 months ago.

Ruhel is the leading man, taking centre stage with a team of around 10, many of them family members. The scene was set back in 1980, when Ruhel's family first entered the industry. Ruhel himself has more than 20 years' experience under his belt, and has an accolade to his name, winning a Curry Chef of the Year award for excellence at the World Curry Expo in 2012/13.

Changes have been made since the spacious restaurant opened, with Ruhel's latest big budget production to install a central partition, with gentle, but exquisite lighting. There are booths for privacy, as well as round tables to seat a party of up to 50 diners among the 160 covers.

Sizzling - the punchy Panshi Grilled Deluxe

The restaurant's interior with its central partition

SPILLAGES

What I particularly like about the Panshi is that there are no cumbersome tablecloths. The bare tables mean any spillages can just be wiped away without having to focus on messy material for the duration of the meal. Of course, this also makes it easier to get in and out without the worry of getting tangled in the tablecloth or pulling it away.

The menu features many exclusive items, as well as specials and chef's recommendations, with credits including beef dishes only available at Panshi. Ruhel takes immense pride in these creations, which take top billing.

"I love creating. And I know that you cannot find these dishes anywhere else," he said.

That would apply to my own main course. We skipped starters, opting just for poppadoms, before I then took a punt on the Panshi Grilled Deluxe, with its assembled cast of tandoori chicken, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, served in a sizzling sauce that Ruhel himself is responsible for. The heat was overpowering, and left me, temporary at least – and to my partner's delight – speechless as the fumes hit me.

Often when food is so hot, it takes away the flavour. However, this was simply exquisite, with chunky, tender, pieces of meat accompanied by a tasty sauce, although Ruhel would not give away any trade secrets and tell me what the secret ingredient was. It is well worth discovering, though. But, take one cold drink at least to douse to fire inside.

Sharon chose the makkon chicken curry, which she assured me compared more than favourably with others she had tried.

Ruhel added he was forever looking to enhance his customers' experience. "We are always trying to improve our customer service and give better quality and presentation," he said.

Despite this, Panshi is proving a box-office hit, with a regular clientele and theme nights that also bring the customers in. They also supply outdoor catering.

Our visit was relatively early on a Thursday, yet there were already plenty of diners trying to get a prime seat.

The epilogue for me was a pina colada dessert, of coconut and pineapple ice cream. We'll no doubt be back for a sequel.

Panshi is open seven days a week from 5pm and is fully licensed. Call 01543 277877 or visit www.panshicannock.com

MARK SHIPP

Well-presented detached has four beds and mature gardens

HALESOWEN
£335,000 <<<

Taylors Estate Agents are pleased to present this extended four-bedroom detached property in, Greenhill Road, Halesowen, which is on sale for £335,000.

This residence features a wide frontage allowing for ample off-road parking.

The property is well presented and proportioned, and features both gas central heating and double glazing.

The property briefly comprises a block paved drive, porch, hall, living diner, breakfast room, modern kitchen, utility, cloakroom with w/c and a good-sized garage.

Off the first floor landing, are the four bedrooms and the family bathroom.

Outside there is a mature rear garden.

Contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01902 880888.

Charming property has been extended

DUDLEY
£280,000

This charming three-bedroomed detached house in Brownswall Road, Dudley, has been considerably extended, being a four/five-bedroomed property on a prominent corner setting.

In a highly sought-after development, only a short distance from Sedgley town centre, it is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £280,000.

Its has an enclosed porch, a reception hall, an attractive extended lounge, an extended dining room, a breakfast kitchen, a multi-purpose through room, a utility room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage, a generous-sized rear garden, majority double glazing and gas central heating.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.

BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL

Place your items for sale with great offers from the Express & Star.
Reach over half a million people*.

We don't have any hidden fees, expensive delivery charges or commission payments - just a great service, at great value for money enabling you to buy and sell locally.

Contact us today to place your advert

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878
ON LINE - bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, **Sell** Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

hallsgb.com

Halls

"KIDDERMINSTER MACHINERY SALE"

STANKLYN LANE, NR. KIDDERMINSTER, WORCS, DY10 4AR

Entries to date include:-

Telehandlers, Cultivation Equipment, Silaging/Haymaking Equipment, Vehicles, Trailers, Livestock Handling Equipment, Agricultural Gates & Fencing, Agricultural Spares & Sundries.

Large Qty of Timber, Building Materials, Insulation, Scaffolding, Steel, Slabs, Garden Furniture, Lawn Mowers, Garden Equipment, New Tools, Workshop Tools, Spares & Sundries.

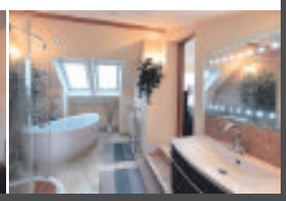
SALE DAY: FRIDAY 25th MAY 2018
SALE COMMENCES AT 10:15 AM
Please call 01562 820880

Catalogues: **hallsgb.com/auctions**

Cot Lane, Kingswinford

- A beautifully presented 6 bedroom detached home
- Separate detached annex at the rear
- Prime location ideally situated for Glynne Primary
- Superb open plan kitchen and dining area
- Study, playroom, two fitted cloakrooms, utility
- Two en-suites, family bathroom, must be viewed, EPC: C

£595,000



Orton Lane, Wombourne

- Beautifully presented traditional detached bungalow
- Secluded position on prestigious Orton Bank
- Spacious lounge, delightful dining kitchen, modern shower room
- Garage, summerhouse and an enviable wooded back drop
- Two double bedrooms, central heating, double glazing
- Viewing essential, EPC: D

£325,000

Windmill Grove, Wall Heath

- Traditional two bedroom detached bungalow
- Superb head of cul-de-sac position amongst landscaped gardens
- Beautifully appointed with re-fitted breakfast kitchen
- Central heating, double glazing, two double bedrooms
- Close to Wall Heath Village and edge of green belt
- Must be viewed, EPC: TBC

£249,950

ANDREW COLE
ESTATES

SALES: 01384 288 188 | ENQUIRIES@ANDREWCOLEESTATES.COM | ANDREWCOLEESTATES.COM | LETTINGS: 01384 282 100

Cross Street, Wall Heath

- Three bedroom detached family home
- Dining kitchen, spacious lounge, ground floor W.C.
- Maintained and improved to a very high standard
- Level lawned gardens, garage, driveway
- Excellent local schools, public transport and recreational facilities
- Central heating and double glazing, EPC: D

£289,950

Kingsley Road, Kingswinford

- Traditional three bedroom semi detached home
- Two reception rooms, kitchen, rear verandah and outbuilding
- In need of some updating but including central heating
- Double glazing, three generous bedrooms, bathroom
- Garage, established level rear garden, driveway
- No upward chain, EPC: TBC

£215,000

New Street, Kingswinford

- Beautifully modernised character property
- Sought after area ideally placed for amenities
- Two double bedrooms, large dining kitchen
- Re-fitted shower room, delightful lounge,
- Ground floor fitted cloakroom, level sunny garden
- Central heating, double glazing, no upward chain, EPC: TBC

£182,500

Hinksford M.H.Park, K'ford

- A two bedroom mobile home on Hinksford Park
- Superb location within quiet backwater
- Beautiful setting, views & canal side walks
- Central heating and double glazing
- Gardens surrounding the property
- Outbuilding, no upward chain

£169,950

Burrows Road, Kingswinford

- Beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached home
- Quietly situated within a small and select cul-de-sac
- Garage and driveway at rear, spacious lounge/dining
- Central heating, double glazing, sunny rear garden
- Ideally placed for excellent local schools and shops
- Must be viewed, EPC: TBC

£164,950

Hallchurch Road, Holly Hall, Dudley

- Spacious three bedroom semi-detached home
- Tucked away yet very convenient for Merry Hill & Dudley
- Double glazing, central heating, utility room
- Private rear gardens, ground floor fitted cloakroom
- Driveway, garage, generous lounge and dining
- Viewing essential, EPC: D

£155,000

Cedars Avenue, The Paddock,

- Extended three bedroom detached bungalow
- Quiet and select cul-de-sac, rarely available
- In need of modernisation, central heating
- Double glazing, large garage
- Wet room, separate W.C.
- No upward chain, EPC: E

£287,500

Longfellow Road, Lower Gornal

- Extended detached dormer style bungalow
- Adaptable accommodation with possible annex
- Breakfast kitchen, lounge/dining 28'10" x 13'1"
- Central heating, double glazing, en-suite and bathroom
- Two garages and driveways
- Large level gardens, no upward chain, EPC: D

£264,950

Hinksford M.H.Park, K'ford

- A three bedroom mobile home on Hinksford Park
- Superb semi-rural location
- Beautiful setting with views and canal side walks close by
- Outhouse and garden
- Central heating and double glazing
- No upward chain

£119,950

Primrose Park, Pensnett, Brierley Hill

- One bed retirement bungalow - over 55's
- Beautifully maintained gardens and grounds
- Courtyard parking, central heating
- Newly fitted composite door and double glazing
- Fitted kitchen, double bedroom
- Viewing essential, no upward chain, EPC: D

£67,000

Škoda to the four! Quartet of awards

By Sharon Walters

Škoda has once again proved itself to be the brand to beat by dominating the 2018 DieselCar and EcoCar Top 50. The Czech brand was named as class winner in no fewer than four key categories and topped more sectors than any other manufacturer in the influential annual chart.

Now in its third year, the DieselCar and EcoCar Top 50 is widely regarded as a definitive guide to the best cars on the market. The chart is compiled from data and feedback from a team of writers who have tested more than 175 cars during the past year. All have been road tested in the UK, and judged against the expectations and demands of their target market.

The Kodiaq added to its incredible list of industry titles by topping the Large SUV category – eclipsing some of the biggest names in the sector in the process. Explaining the Kodiaq's appeal, Ian Robertson, editor and publisher DieselCar & EcoCar Magazine said; "Despite undercutting key rivals, the big Škoda offers more performance and practicality at a lower price and with smaller running costs. This five and seven-seater drives brilliantly, comes with the option of advanced four-wheel drive to keep you going and is filled to the roof rails with clever features like pop-out door protectors."

Not to be outdone, the Superb grabbed two awards; Best Large Car and Best Large Estate. As with the Kodiaq, the judging panel loved the Superb's value and practicality. "The pricing of this limousine-like model defies belief, with so much room in the back you might feel tempted to change your wardrobe and don a smart black suit." said Ian. "Its size, torquey engines and smooth manual or automatic gearboxes make the Superb a superlative tow car, and it's in its element on the motorway. If you aren't an SUV enthusiast, the Superb is a great antidote and yet still hugely spacious."

Octavia was named the Best Medium Estate

Superb grabbed Best Large Car ad Best Large Estate

The Kodiaq topped the Large SUV category – eclipsing some of the biggest names in the process

Completing a remarkable haul for Škoda, the Octavia was named Best Medium Estate, marking a lock-out of the large Estate market for the brand. Substantially updated last year, the Octavia wowed the judges with its strength in depth. Explaining why it took top honours Ian Robertson said: "Making up around a third of Škoda sales, the Octavia is a critical model for the Czech brand, so it's a good job the latest update has been such a success. The estate has a class-leading boot and the vRS performance version is powerful and grippy without attracting any unwanted attention. No wonder Octavia owners are so happy."

Thanks to the new Karoq's 17th place finish, no fewer than five Škoda models featured in the Top 50 – a remarkable achievement and testament to the value for money delivered by the brand's efficient diesel models.

These latest Diesel Car and EcoCar awards add to a vast collection of silverware already accumulated by the Kodiaq, Superb and Octavia. The former has taken more than 10 top industry titles since its launch last March.

Legend lives on: Aston Martin V600 is reborn

The legendary Aston Martin Vantage V600 has been reborn in the form of a customer commissioned limited run of all-new breathtakingly beautiful Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s, inspired and influenced by the original V8 Vantage V600.

In 1998, Aston Martin offered its customers the most extreme iteration of its Vantage sportscar, the supercharged V8 Vantage V600. Delivering 600bhp, the model was one of the most powerful sports cars of its time, a car of extremes.

Limited

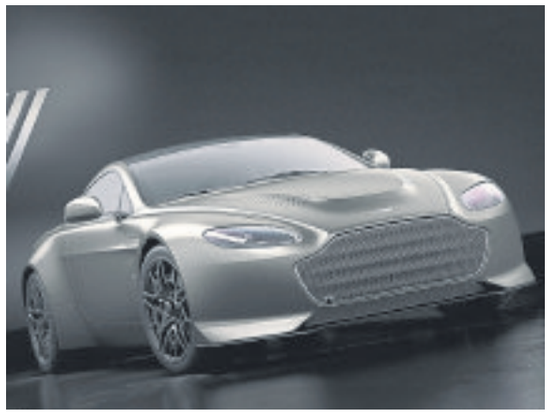
Fast forward 20 years and the luxury British carmaker's unique personalisation service Q by Aston Martin received a customer commission for a strictly limited run of 14 new Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600s.

Split between seven coupes and seven roadsters and dubbed the 'Triple V', this unique series of manual V12 V600s have been commissioned, designed and handcrafted without compromise.

Underpinned by the previous-generation 'VH' Vantage, the 2018 Aston Martin V12 Vantage V600 combines the modern performance of a muscle sportscar with styling, creating the ultimate Vantage.

Marek Reichman, vice president and chief creative officer of Aston Martin, said: "This is precisely why we created our 'Q by Aston Martin – Commission' service.

"Our customers can create truly bespoke sports cars by personally collaborating with myself and Aston Martin's design team.



The car combines the modern performance of a sportscar with styling

"The V600 name remains a classic in Aston Martin's heritage and I'm proud to see it adorn the V12 Vantage V600 once again".

The V12 Vantage V600 has commanding road presence and utilises aggressive styling cues across its full-carbon fibre exterior. Like the 90s classic, the V600 utilises a re-imagined side-strake and a bonnet that hints towards the power that lies underneath. A unique darkened grille provides maximum air and cooling to the model's characterful V12, while the car's rear continues to point to the car's powerful nature.

An all-new carbon fibre diffuser provides the backdrop for a quad exhaust system.

The external look is further distinguished by bespoke centre-lock forged and machined aluminium wheels.

The interior is marked by carbon fibre and dark anodised aluminium. The lightweight seats have an all-new perforation pattern, carbon fibre centre console and bespoke driver information dials. A hand-crafted saddle leather centre armrest provides comfort and style within ergonomic reach of the machined-from-solid gear shifter.

Halesowen Autos
Quality Used Cars At Great Prices

1966 MG MGB Roadster Convertible
Old English White, Chrome Wire Wheels, Red Leather, Soft Top and Hard Top, Stunning Restoration, Immaculate
£POA

2012/62 Volkswagen Beetle 1.4 TSI Design
3dr, Grey, 45k, White Alloys, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth/Aux, E/Windows, S/H
£8495

2010/60 Land Rover Discovery 4 3.0 TDV6 GS
5dr Auto 7 Seater, Beige, ONLY 83k MILES, Alloys, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth, E/Windows, S/H
£15995

2011/11 Mini Cooper 1.6 D Convertible
2dr, White, 48k, Alloys, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth, E/Split-roof, E/Windows, Openometer, S/H
£7995

2014/14 Ford Focus ST-2 Turbo 247 BHP
5dr, Frozen White, ONLY 17k MILES, Alloys, Half Leather Recaro Seats, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth, E/W, S/H
£14995

2009/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE
5dr Multi-Tronic Auto Estate, Black, 88k, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows, S/H
£7495

2013/63 BMW 320d GT Gran Turismo SE
5dr Step Auto, White, ONLY 41k MILES, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth/Aux/USB, E/W, S/H
£14495

2011/61 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC Si
5dr, Red, 42k, Alloys, Half Leather, Air-Con, CD/USB/Aux, E/Windows, S/H
£6795

2013/13 Honda CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC S 4WD
5dr, ONE OWNER, Blue, 58k, Alloys, Air-Con, CD/Aux/USB, E/Windows, FMDSH
£11995

2006/06 Toyota Rav-4 2.2 D-4D XT4 Diesel
4WD 5dr, Silver, 76k, Alloys, Black Leather, Air-Con, CD
£5995

2010/60 Mercedes E220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY SE
Coupe Tip Automatic, Blue, ONLY 47k MILES, Grey Leather, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/W, S/H
£11995

2012/62 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi
5dr, Silver, ONLY 23k MILES, Alloys, CD/Aux, E/Windows, S/H, LOW Insurance, Ideal 1st Car
£5995

2008/08 BMW Z4 2.0i Sport
2dr Convertible, Red, ONLY 10k MILES, Alloys, Black Leather, Air-Con, CD, E/Roof, E/Windows, S/H
£9995

2006/06 Mazda MX-5 1.8
2dr Soft-Top Convertible, Silver, ONLY 35k MILES, Alloys, Multi-CD, E/Windows, S/H
£4995

2010/60 Mini 1.6 Cooper S Camden
3dr with JCW Bodystyling, White Silver, 41k, Alloys, Air-Con, CD/Bluetooth, E/windows, S/H
£8995

2007/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6T 16v VXR
3dr, Silver, 72k, Alloys, E/Windows, CD, Half Leather Recaro Seats, S/H
£4495

We Buy Cars

Thinking of selling your car?
Had an offer from an online site or as a part exchange?
We would like to make an offer on your car. Competitive trade prices given.
No Admin fees, safe secure and hassle free, with same day payment.

FINANCE AVAILABLE • PART EXCHANGE
WARRANTIES AVAILABLE • WE BUY CARS

1 CROSS STREET, HALESOWEN B63 4RT
Tel: 0121 501 3840
www.halesowenautos.co.uk

Buying a new car is exciting but take care

Expert top tips on driving a new car

Buying a new car is an exciting experience, but there are a few things to bear in mind as you drive your pride and joy away from the showroom. These tips give advice on driving a new car, from IAM RoadSmart's head of driving and riding standards Richard Gladman.

● Allow the brakes to bed in. Start driving gently and avoid harsh accelerating and heavy braking. It's good to remember that the tyres will last longer if they're treated gently for the first few hundred miles

● Check the coolant levels and oil frequently. The oil consumption may be relatively high for the first 5,000 miles as the engine parts gradually loosen up, but it should then settle down

● If possible, avoid long runs at constant engine speed for the first 1,000 miles or so. Varying the engine speed helps the parts to start working together over the full speed range

● Fuel consumption will also gradually improve as the moving parts wear in, so don't be too disappointed if your first tankful doesn't take you as far as you hoped. It is quite normal for mpg to increase gradually over several thousand miles

Richard said: "Buying a new car is exciting, but it is also a substantial investment. Treating it with a little restraint to begin with will help all the parts to perform at their best for longer and more reliably. This will also help you get the feel of the car before you fully exploit the performance."

New regulations give loyal customers leg up

Shopping around for car insurance can be a paint, but a new announcement may have just made it a little easier.

Crack down on 'loyalty penalty'

Insurance watchdogs have today announced plans to crack down on the so-called 'loyalty penalty' forced on customers who don't change provider each year, giving buyers greater freedom when it comes to covering their car.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) launched the proposals, which would reduce the incidence of loyal customers paying excessively high premiums while new customers are attracted with artificially low introductory offers.

The move encompasses not just motor insurance, but also home and travel. Health and pet insurance was deemed too complicated to include as renewal may be forced to cover medical conditions that did not exist when the policy was first taken out.

The key commitments that the two associations intend their members to adhere to include clear written or verbal communication that subsequent premiums after the first year may be higher, ensuring that introductory discounts do not penalise long-standing customers.

Andy Briggs, chairman of the ABI, said: "The renewal market simply doesn't work where loyal customers get charged much more than new customers.

"Given many consumers expect to get cheaper insurance when they shop around, there is no easy solution. These new guiding principles and action points are a positive initiative by the ABI and BIBA members to demonstrate that the whole industry recognises this is an important issue that needs to be addressed."

The guidance follows the introduction of rules forcing insurers to display the previous year's premiums on renewal notices.

On the road to success with search for best young driver

By Sharon Walters

Does your teen think they're better than you at everything – even things they're not old enough to do? Thanks to a national competition, they might finally be able to prove they're right.

The Young Driver Challenge 2018 specifies that drivers have to be under the legal driving age of 17 – and they can be as much as seven years away from taking to the road for real.

The competition, which is in its fifth year, offers anyone aged 10-16 the chance to be named Britain's Best Young Driver. The challenge is run by Young Driver, the country's largest provider of pre-17 driving tuition, which provides lessons with fully qualified instructors in dual controlled cars at more than 50 venues across the UK.

Anyone aged 10 or over can enter the Young Driver Challenge – and prove to their parents they really can do it better! Until the end of July, anyone taking a lesson at Young Driver's NEC or Merry Hill venues can enter with the best 40 scores across the country making the final.

National

The challenge encourages youngsters to consider responsible and safe driving, with top marks given to those who show the best levels of control and awareness. The national final will also take place on September 22 at the Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh, where emergency services' drivers are taught. Twenty finalists compete in each of two categories – 10-13 years and 14-16.

Entrants drive a dual control Vauxhall Corsa, with an approved driving instructor, and are marked on driving skills and manoeuvres, including parallel parking, independent driving, emergency stops, steering, judgement and positioning. Judges include ex-police drivers and advanced instructors and first place prizes for each category include £200, 10 one-hour Young Driver lessons and family restaurant vouchers. Prizes are also given to the runners up.

One in five newly qualified drivers has an accident within six months of passing their test and 400 people are killed on UK roads in accidents involving young drivers every year. Pre-17 driving tuition has been shown to cut the accident rate in half, to one in 10.

Laura White, head of marketing for Young Driver, said: "Of course, it's pretty annoying when your kids think they can do something better than you – but with some of our drivers, they really would put people who have been on the roads for years to shame. The aim of Young Driver has always been to create a safer next generation of drivers.

Luka Wilson-Green, the winner of the 10-13 age category of the Young Driver Challenge 2017

Research shows that teaching children at a younger age, and over a longer period, is key to getting them the experience they need to be able to react quickly and appropriately when they do get on the road for real. People are often amazed at the skill shown by some of our young drivers – even at just 10 – but their brains are like sponges and they absorb all the information and road safety points without having the pressure to pass a test, or the need to prove to peers that they can do it.

"The Challenge Final is always the highlight of our calendar. This is the first year the final has taken place at the Fire Services College in the Cotswolds, and it's a brilliant venue, where we'll be able to set up a really interesting Challenge Final.

"We're looking forward to welcoming the best of the best from around the country."

For more information on Young Driver, to book a lesson or find out more about entering the Young Driver Challenge 2018, go to www.youngdriver.com or call 0844 371 9010.

Youngsters aged from 10-17 can have a lesson in a Vauxhall Corsa with Young Driver

New 'ultimate' road car from Lotus

Lotus has announced yet another new addition to its Exige range – the Exige Sport 410, which slots between the Sport 350 and Cup 430 in the British brand's model line-up.

The Sport 410 has been developed from the track-focused Cup 430, Lotus says, giving it 'unrivalled' driving dynamics and a degree of motorsport prowess courtesy of true downforce – up to 150kg – and low weight.

Lotus says this is the lightest V6 model ever. Weighing in at just 1,054kg, the Exige Sport 410 has a power-to-weight ratio of 389bhp per tonne – higher than a McLaren 570S.

Power comes courtesy of Lotus' 3.5-litre supercharged V6 engine, which in this form develops 410bhp and 420Nm of torque.

Top speed is a reported 180mph, and 0-60mph is despatched in just 3.3 seconds.

The Sport 410 gains the track-focused chassis from the Cup 430, but with the adjustable dampers tuned for a road bias. On request, Lotus can tune the entire chassis to customer taste, including adjustable compression and Eibach front and rear anti-roll bars.

Lotus says this is the lightest V6 model ever with a power-to-weight ratio higher than a McLaren 570S

An impressive 150kg of downforce is provided by a revised aerodynamic configuration including carbon side pods and rear wing plus a front splitter to reduce turbulence around the front wheels.

The cabin receives Lotus' now-trademark open-gate manual gearbox plus carbon-fibre sports seats trimmed in Alcantara and leather. The truly hardcore can specify track-ready touches, such as airbag-deletion from the steering wheel, four-point racing harnesses, a roll cage and inbuilt fire extinguisher.

The Lotus Exclusive programme allows buyers to customise their cars, tailoring the character of their Lotus precisely to their taste.

It's the ideal way to ensure your Exige Sport 410 stands out from the crowd.

The Lotus Exige Sport 410 starts from £85,600 in the UK.

Local Specialists

Aeriels

MATT WALTERS DIGITAL AERIALS
your LOCAL Aerial/Satellite specialist
Aerials - Satellite Dishes Fitted From £65
ANY LIKE FOR LIKE
QUOTATION BEATEN
Senior Citizen Discounts
2 Year Guarantee
Digital Aerials/Freeview/Freesat
SKY HD/ SKY+/MULTIROOM
SKY Q specialist
• Free Quotation • Repairs • Free Call Out
• Same Day service • Freeview Specialist
£10 OFF ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT
Mobile: 07853 253176

Alarms

METRO ALARMS AND SECURITY
CCTV SYSTEMS
accessed via phones and tablets
NEW PROFESSIONAL WIRELESS SYSTEM
No Mess! Simple to use Remote Controlled
• Burgler Alarm Repairs
• Home Alarm Installation
• Upgrades Close Circuit TV
• 30 Years Experience • Video Entry Systems
• Alarms Serviced From £30
Free Quotes & Advice
01384 350 687
07904 317 150
(Any Time)
www.metro-alarms.co.uk

Builders

C ETHERIDGE BUILDING SERVICES
• Extensions
• Alterations
• Roofing
• Landscaping
• Block paving
• General property maintenance.
Over 35yrs experience
For a FREE quote call Chris
01384 635627
07989 738732

Decorating

JOHN MORRIS
Interior & Exterior Decorating
Artexing & Coving
Over 35 years experience
FREE ESTIMATES
01384 349 375
07710 133 445

Plumbing & Heating

KEN PERRY
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed
Guild of Master Crafstmen
Gas Safe Registered
STOURBRIDGE 392284

Carpentry

DAVID ADAMS CARPENTRY
Doors, loft conversions, laminate flooring, UPVC windows & doors
FREE QUOTATIONS
30 years experience
0121 602 1450
07885 417812

Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
20% Discount
Local Specialists
Dry Verge Units Fitted
For All aspects of cleaning & repair call Robert for a FREE quote on
07767869792
We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

NICK WOOD
PROFESSIONAL CARPEY & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SERVICES
Continuing a 40 Year Old Family Run Business

- ✓ INDUSTRY TRAINED CERTIFICATE
- ✓ SOAP FREE DETERGENT SYSTEM
- ✓ FRESH CLEAN CARPETS
- ✓ HWE DEEP CLEANING AND PILE LIFT
- ✓ 100% GUARANTEED SATISFACTION
- ✓ FULLY INSURED AND CERTIFIED

FREE SURVEY / QUOTATIONS
Tel: 01384 402109
Mobile: 07814 009596
FACEBOOK.COM/STOURBRIDGECARPETCLEANING

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.

WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
HIGH SECURITY DOOR BARRELS NOW BEING FITTED
WE HAVE A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
01384 918383
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
Visit our new website
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 520599

Misted Sealed Units?
Blark Country Glazing
Contact US for a FREE quote!
Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
'A' Rated Windows as Standard
10 YEAR GUARANTEE
Please see our customer reviews on either Homepro or Which
"Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth"
Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ
Est 1987
01384 566100
www.blackcountryglazing.com

Double Glazing

Lutley Windows Ltd
Repairs or Replacement Windows, Doors & Conservatories, Misted Units, UPVC Locksmith
Great Prices, Free Quotes
Call Mark: 07885 917277
www.lutleywindows.co.uk

Driveways

ACE PAVING SERVICES LTD
City and Guilds Streetworks Approved
• Tarmacing • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios • Landscaping • Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing • Fencing and Decking • Power Washing • 5 year guarantee FREE estimate • 15 years experience • Fully insured • Resinbond Drives.
01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419
Web: www.acepavingservicesltd.co.uk
Email: acepavingservices@outlook.com
Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields, Halesowen B63 2QB
City & Guilds

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac Drives • Red Tarmac Car Parks • Resurfacing
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Checkatrade

Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Driveways & Patios

JDC Driveways & Patios
Tarmac, Block Paving, Turf Laying, Gravelling, Fencing, Drainage and Pressure Cleaning
Free Quotation Online
No obligation
0800 077 6981
07944 883248
www.jdcdriveways.co.uk

Driveways & Patios

C-G Paving
Specialists in:
Block Paving, Power Cleaning, Landscaping, Gravelling, Patios, Forecourts, Fencing and Driveways
All Groundwork undertaken
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION
Mini Digger & Driver available
01384 596721
07483 889 139

Garage Doors

GARADOR - CARDALE - SELECT - WESSEX - HENDERSON - HORMANN
SECTIONALS - UP & OVERS - SIDE-HINGED - ROLLERS - MOTORISED
RELIADOR GARAGE DOORS
SALES - INSTALLATION - REPAIRS
SAME DAY SERVICE
01384 386909
07858 299305
NO FIX NO FEE!
www.reliador.co.uk - reliadorgd@gmail.com
CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878
Classified Ads

Electricians

BRADLEY ELECTRICAL & MAINTENANCE
Est 1987
All electrical work undertaken
Fully qualified & insured
Installation Condition Reports
No job too small
★ FREE ESTIMATES ★
Electrical Safety Register
Call Paul 01384 344589 or 07812 435833
www.bradleyelectrical.net

R&D ELECTRICS
All Domestic Electrical work including Alarms
N.I.C.E.I.C. Registered
FREE QUOTES
Call Ron on:
07773 645854
or 01384 422182

Landscapers

J D's Landscaping and Building
BRICKLAYING AND ALL PAVING WORK
Fencing and gates
Conservatory and porch bases
FREE QUOTES
Call John
01384 326405 or 07719 807564

Fencing

Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

Locksmiths

Security Locksmith Services
LOCK PROBLEMS!
01384 354344 / 07540 380140
Tony Lane 76 Church Rd
Wordsley DY8 5AU
- Emergency Call Out Service -

The ASA regulates ads on websites.
#socialmediatoo
ASA.org.uk
Advertising Standards Authority

Local Specialists

Skip Hire

A.J.B. Waste Management

Try us for a **FREE** no obligation quotation
FOR A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 6 DAYS
Small jobs NOT A PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free quotation
GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD, SHED, GARAGE, WHITE GOODS, HOUSE CLEARANCES FURNITURE.
You can also bring your own waste to our fully licensed transfer station
CALL TODAY AND LETS TALK RUBBISH
Tel 0121 520 7731

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

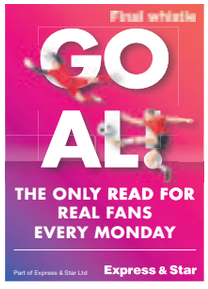
Gardening

ROWAN
TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES
• Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
• Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
• Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
• Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
All staff C.R.B. Certified

R.A. GARDEN SERVICES
Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared
FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
07970 876 638 • 01384 569 148
www.ragardenservices.net

SEDGLEY TREE CARE
Professional Tree Surgeon
All aspects of tree work undertaken
- CONTRACT TREE CLIMBER
- TREE REMOVAL
- CROWN REDUCTION
- STUMP GRINDING
- HEDGE TRIMMING
- GARDEN CLEARANCES

ALL WASTE REMOVED
NPTC QUALIFIED
07746813358 or 01902 659692
FOR A FREE QUOTE



Roofing

M&M Roofing & Fascias
Est 2001
Quality

- uPVC Fascias
- Soffits
- Guttering
- Cladding
- All aspects of roofing
- New roofs/repairs
- Flat roofs
- Tiling/slating
- Dry verges
- Approved fibre glass installer

Also
CONCRETE GUTTERING
Specialist removal
Replacing with
Modern low maintenance
Upvc Fascias and Soffits

All work guaranteed with HomePro Insurance

No Free Gimmicks Family Business

Local References if required

Registered with HomePro Insurance
Membership No. 554518
TRUST MARK
FAIRTRADE

Giving homeowners peace of mind
ALWAYS FREE ADVICE AND QUOTATION
Freephone 0800 799 9413
Mob: 07906 724736
to speak to Mark
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2YD

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- **Discounted for OAPs**
- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing
Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

ELITE PLASTICS

• Fascias • Softs • Dry Verge
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Tree Surgeon

TREE SURGEONS
11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING
CALL US ON:
07817 553 346
01384 387 016
TERRA FIRMA ARBORICULTURE
info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

Loft Ladders

The Loft Ladder Man
Loft Ladders fitted from £120 inclusive
New or enlarged hatches
T & G Flooring, Lighting
Call Luke on
07779 118807 or 01384 833025
lukejs248@gmail.com
like our brand new facebook page @ theloftladderman
We will beat any like for like quote
Fully Insured

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

J.T. BROOKES

Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

A TRADITION OF TRUST

"We are very pleased with the service offered by the Express & Star. Our business and advertising needs are always well met."

Wombourne Funeral Services.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Wombourne Funeral Services & Monumental Masons
For your nearest branch call 01902 892635
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

Christadelphian

HOW BIBLE TEACHING SHOULD EFFECT YOU Marriage - a divine institution, May 20, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WORLD OF MOBILITY
Stourbridge's longest established Family Run Mobility Store
Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.
01384 378252

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Camping Equipment

HI GEAR Tourer 6, six berth tent, used one week only. £100. Please call 01746 710670.

VW TRANSPORTER T25 CAMPER VAN
1989, good condition,
many extras.
Ill health forces sale.
£8,500 or very near offer.
01902 497824.

Car Boot Sales

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sunday 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449 DY6 0AA. 0771064490 www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

Caravans Wanted

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

ABI BRIGHTSTAR AWARD WINNING LUXURY TWO BERTH TOURER
End bathroom, large porch awning, new protec cover, motor mover, many extras, very good condition,
£1,200.
Telephone 07565 929084

CARAVAN FOR SALE Bailey Senator Vermont 2 berth caravan with all equipment and ready to go.£2,950 ono 01902 843584

LUNAR QUASAR 544 CARAVAN
2014.
End bed, very good condition, includes Motormover.
£11,000.
01902 757955.

HOLIDAY HOME FOR SALE
2012 ABI Ambleside 2 bedroom luxurious and spacious model £33,995 on an immaculate & family friendly 5 star park in the breath taking location of historic Harlech with spectacular beaches, castle and golf course minutes away
www.minydonpark.co.uk
call Jayne or Carl 01766 780286

Holiday Home for sale -2017 Willerby Wrekin
BRAND NEW Limited edition, enhanced features £28,995 on a stunning 5 star park in The Welsh Marches set above the River Severn with private fishing & stunning Bowling Pavilion Nr. Shrewsbury. Will appeal to retired people & couples.
Call Ron or Margaret
01743 885080
www.sevenoakspark.co.uk

SWIFT BURGUNDY CARAVAN
2009 immaculate condition sited 12 months of the year at salt marsh bromyard. Three bedrooms, double glazing, brand new Worcester Bosch boiler.
£16,000 ono
07592 165066.

SWIFT FAIRWAY
Two berth
Only used four times.
Condition as new.
Under 1,000 miles.
With all equipment, nothing extra to buy.
Ready to use.
£5,750.
Details, 01902 636363.

VENTURA Porch awning, burgundy, 200 x 260cm, £780 new, never used. £350. 01384 379260.

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
"Weeks from £209 per couple
"Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

Music Shop

GUITAR GEAR 4 Music (Strat Copy) 15 watt amp. Very good condition. £60 ono. 07719 028059.

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique Fairs

VINTAGE ANTIQUE / Collectables Fair, Coven Memorial Hall WV9 5DL, Sunday 20 May, 9-3. Karen 01384 277373 / 07938 123040.

Auctions

ANTIQUE / COLLECTABLES AUCTION
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL, CALFHEATH, CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
MONDAY 21ST MAY
AUCTION STARTS 6PM - VIEWING 4.30PM
07775 951464

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards. **Sunday 20th May and 17th June.** Next Antique Fair June 3rd. Est 1979, Waverley. Refreshments available. 0121 550 4381.

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

Collectables & Memorabilia

ROYAL ALBERT Moss Rose, 53 pieces, £400. 07811 150653.

Furniture

DINING TABLE Mahogany rectangular with curved edges, extends, 8 upholstered chairs. Very good condition. £65 ono. 07979 560284.

In Your Garden

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

MULLITCO WOOD TURNING LATHE
37ins bed max, head stock, centre point, face plate, collection of quality turning tools and sundry items including bench
£100.
01902 895356.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k+ 2 computer wanted also any old Crash or your Sinclair Magazines. 01902 892918.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Electrical Services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."

Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

JC'S LAWN CARE
GRASS CUTTING AND EDGING
Friendly / Reliable Service
Regular and one off cuts
07879 418350

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

Painters/ Decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

Express & Star
LANDSCAPE GARDENERS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS "JUST WHAT I NEEDED"

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KIND HOMES WANTED
BEN, three year old black Lab cross Collie, typical lovely Labrador temperament, owner too ill to care for him.
BRACKEN 8 year old black and white Border Collie, has lived with cats, ok with dogs, shy till he gets to know you.
JED tri-coloured Border Collie, loves fuss and food, good with other dogs, lovely little chap.
LEXI lovely small tri-coloured Collie girl, good with other dogs, has had sheltered existence, was shy and nervous when she first came to us but is coming on in leaps and bounds.
01588 676106.

LITTLE TED
I am approximately 5 years old.
A handsome, little Jack Russell, tri coloured.
I am a typical, lively, inquisitive chap who loves fuss.
I walk nicely on my lead and am good in the car.
I would like to be the only little boy in the house if possible.
At present I am in a foster home.
01588 676106.

MEDIUM SIZE dog cage, double door, only used few times, £35 o.n.o. 07840 518196.

RABBIT RUN with upper hutch. Good condition. £45. Call for details 01902 894593.

WANTED Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07970 485491.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

Mobile Homes

SHOWROOM CONDITION

PARK HOME STATELY ALBION

2 bedroom, one ensuite. Plus bathroom. Recent carpet fitted throughout, double unit.

Close to Shrewsbury.

£88,000.

Telephone 01691 682118 or 07975 643737.

SHOWROOM CONDITION

PARK HOME STATELY ALBION

2 bedroom, one ensuite. Plus bathroom. Recent carpet fitted throughout, double unit.

Close to Shrewsbury.

£88,000.

Telephone 01691 682118 or 07975 643737.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE **0800 121 6007** OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call 01562 277 067
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

The Property Ombudsman

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

Employment Wanted

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FCA
Seeks part-time accountancy / bookkeeping.
Based in Halesowen.
07860 357143.

Full Time General

WOLVERHAMPTON CAREERS FAIR

WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 2018

10am to 2pm

Jobs fair

20 LOCAL EMPLOYERS ON THE DAY

@ MOLINEUX STADIUM, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 4QR

FREE TO ATTEND **NO REGISTRATION**

WWW.THEJOBFAIRS.CO.UK

The ASA regulates ads on websites.

#socialmediatoo

ASA.org.uk

Advertising Standards Authority

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE

Blue, blue hood,

tan leather interior,

New cam belt and water pump fitted.

MoT'd, low mileage.

£2,195 ono.

07948 146611.

BMW 1 SERIES

127,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, manual, 5 seats, 5 doors, MoT has recently finished, full BMW service history, economical vehicle with cheap road tax, 2 previous owners, female driver, immaculate condition.

£3,250

07466 114543.

Cars Over £1500

VW GOLF 1.4 TSI SE 5d. 2010, 47k, Blue. Full VW Service history, 11 months MoT. Alloys, ac. Great condition. £5,500 ono 07825 937979.

CHEVROLET SPARK LT, 2012, Blue, 1.2 engine, petrol, 35,000 miles, hpi clear, full service history, well looked after, all receipts kept, air con, alloy wheels, CD and MP3 player, ipod plug, electric mirrors, all electric windows, climate control, traction control, cheap on fuel.
£2,600.
07851 378721.

CITROEN C1 RHYTHM
2008, 5dr, 65k, Grey,
7 service stamps, 2 keys,
12 months MoT. £20 tax.
Serviced last week.
Three months warranty.
£1,995
07867 473870

FIAT 500 DIESEL BY DESIGN (model not fuel)
2011, 55,600 miles, Diesel green metallic, EW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, FSH.
£4,400 ono.
07918 621300 (no text)

FORD B-MAX

Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388 engine, 10,000 miles, silver metallic, black roof, black alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio / CD, aircon, front fog lights, electric window, sliding back doors, Immaculate condition.

£8,000

07788 684373.

NISSAN NOTE TEKNA

2008, 1.6, 78000 miles, petrol, full service history, one previous owner, drives excellently, a/c, radio CD.

£1,995 ono

07977939497

DIESEL

VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 DIESEL
2015,. 115,000 miles, black exlusive model, long MoT, new tyres, brakes, excellent condition,
£5,250.
07948 309727

BARGAIN

VW GOLF 2.0 TDi SPORT
06 reg.
5 door. Black.
Six gears. 136,000 miles.
New water pump and cam belt 2017.
12 months MoT.
Good condition.
£1,495.
07787 410300.

Cars Under £1500

FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME

2004 reg, MoT April 2019, immaculate paintwork/interior, electric windows, air conditioning, radio/cd, reliable, garaged,

£800.

0121 384 7888 or 07771 428793.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FORD FIESTA 1.8 D
2001.
Blue.
MoT.
Low mileage.
Very reliable.
Reluctant sale.
£300 ono.
07510 029440.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES CLK 230 CONVERTIBLE
2002.
Silver.
Good condition.
Excellent inside.
£1,275.
07902 387527.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN
SWB, TD, sport, manual, 95, bull bars, tow bar, 80,000 miles, FSH, sunroof, 4k miles per year, pristine condition.
£1,500 No offers.
07848 820177.

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 57 REG
Low mileage.
Silver.
Excellent condition inside and out.
Full MoT.
£1,250.
07902 387527.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1600
06 reg, full MoT, runs well, clean and tidy inside, electric windows, cd player/radio
£995 ono.
01902 862610.

VOLVO S60 2.0 TURBO SE AUTO

54 Reg., one owner from new, low mileage, full electric pack, leather electric seats, silver.

£995.

07599 220780.

BARGAIN

VW BEETLE 1.6

51 reg, 84,000 miles, ideal first car, MoT, stereo, .

£650 ono.

Telephone 07864 842076.

Classic Cars

JAGUAR XJS 4.0 AUTOMATIC
Great condition for year, 1991, MoT to October.
£4,950
01952 750768
or
07503 252082

Commercial Vehicles

GOOD RUNNER

FORD TRANSIT VAN 240

Nov, 2003, high mileage, very good condition, good runner, new engine, any trial.

£1,125 ono.

07805 667478.

Motorbikes

LOOK

HONDA C70

V reg., 5,800 miles,

very good condition.

£700.

07836 568903.

Scrap Vehicles

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Accessories & Services

WANTED IFOR WILLIAMS Trailer, anything considered. 07948 309727.

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS
Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

9 Local Information

Public Notices

ANTHONY JOHN SUGGARS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 36 Mount Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1JA, who died on 01/02/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 20/07/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
SILKS SOLICITORS LTD
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY
T529718

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
CRAB LANE, BOBBINGTON

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council on 17th May 2018 made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Crab Lane in Bobbington from its junction with Gospel Ash Road to its junction with Watery Lane unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

An alternative route for traffic is available via Gospel Ash Road, Halfpenny Green Lane, Six Ashes Road, Crab Lane and vice versa. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=105188257

The order will come into operation on 21st May 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date, taking place daily between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 22nd May 2018 at 15.30 hrs.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the BT Openreach works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change, No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH

Ref: 4110299; Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre
Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders
http://roadworks.org

Date: 18th May 2018

10 Personals

General

I AM TRYING TRACE L JONES
From Hordern Road and Whitmore Secondary School, 70 years ago.
Please contact Christine Broadbent (now Christine Went)
Box Number P21183 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOOK

LOOKING FOR M FOSTER
Last know address Great Bricklyn Street, Wolverhampton.
Had Brother Leonard that emigrated to Australia.
Please contact Betty
Box Number P21177 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WITNESS WANTED

For an accident between a grey Ford car and a black Nissan car on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the junction of Enville Road and Eastcroft Road, Warstones area of Wolverhampton.

Phone 07855 370328.

WOULD MRS L AND MR P CAMPBELL
Who live in Wolverhampton.
Please contact Mr. I Bates, who lives in South Shields, as he has lost your postal address and telephone number.
Please write regarding this to.
Box Number P21178 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 0121 620 2445 for full details. Discretion assured!

MEET sexy local women, genuine adult contacts, meet discreet exp ladies for adult fun. 07008 026348.

ONE EASY GOING MALE

looking for a slim lady who's fed up of being alone, I am a 62-70 aged male with plenty of get up and go.

What have you got to lose?

Make a fresh start in life.

Hope to hear from you.

Please send replies to

Box Number P21175,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RESPECTABLE MALE

GSOH, No ties, non smoker, solvent, classic car owner, nice home.

Seeks respectable attractive female, 30-55, friendship / possible relationship.

Photo appreciated, will return.

Box Number P21184,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SOLVENT MALE 60'S

Young at heart, various interests, WLTM female for Friendship / possible relationship to enjoy meals/days out, holidays, countryside etc.

Box Number P21182 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Wolves players celebrate their promotion in 1988

Steve Bull celebrates with the Fourth Division trophy

Holding trophy aloft – Ally Robertson

Golden promotion – and glory in 1988

Boss Graham Turner

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

"For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans."

THEY have swept aside all their rivals to clinch an historic return to the Premier League.

But 30 years ago, Wolves were celebrating a different promotion – and one that played a huge part in shaping the club we know today.

It was back on May 2, 1988, that a 2-0 win over Hartlepool saw the Molineux men clinch the Fourth Division Championship.

Having failed to win promotion the previous year, the pressure was on Graham Turner's side to lift the club from the doldrums. And they managed to achieve their goal with a game to spare by securing victory over the monkey hangers.

In front of 17,895 fans at Molineux – the biggest gate of the season, two goals from Steve Bull clinched the title. But Wolves kept their fans waiting with the second of the striker's goals arriving two minutes into stoppage time.

Thriller

Overall, the game hadn't been a thriller. Keeper Mark Kendall was knocked unconscious after colliding with the post three minutes from time. That saw defender Floyd Streete see out the match in goal.

But otherwise, the two Bull goals were the only moments of quality.

That didn't bother Turner though who was just happy to get over the line.

"Anybody who turned up expecting to see a good game would have been disappointed," he said.

"But anyone who turned up to witness the celebration of the Wolves revival will have thoroughly enjoyed it.

"For us, it was the highlight of the season to be able to celebrate in front of our own fans.

"Neither the game nor performance were important, but the result certainly was."

A Wolves revival it certainly was. Just three weeks later, Wolves were celebrating again when they won the Sherpa Van Trophy.

Then the following year they clinched a second successive promotion by beating Sheffield United to the Division Three title.

Celebrating – Floyd Streete with Mark Kendall

Evening with World Cup hero Sir Geoff

AN evening with England World Cup football legend Sir Geoff Hurst is due to take place at Molineux. Scorer of that famous hat-trick in the 1966 final, Sir Geoff, now aged 76, will be on stage on October 25.

Sir Geoff made his name with West Ham before moving on to Stoke and later Baggies towards the end of his career in this country. He scored 24 goals in 49 England appearances.

The evening starts at 6.30pm for VIP holders, and an hour later for those with standard tickets.

The admission includes a three-course meal and charity auction.

As well as Sir Geoff, England 1966 World Cup winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks and Black Country comedian Jonny Cole will also appear.

It will be hosted by BBC WM's Daz Hale. Funds raised during the evening will support Help for Heroes.

For tickets or further information go to cpceventsafety.com and click on Upcoming Events.

Former Monmore rider Francis dies

FORMER Wolverhampton and Cradley Heathens rider Cyril Francis has died. Born in Newport, Gwent, in 1935, Francis took up speedway at Bristol in 1960 but came to Monmore Green as Wolverhampton reopened in 1961.

He was a vital part of the Wolves team who won the Provincial League in 1963, scoring 147 points in 28 meetings in that memorable season.

He went to Newport in 1967, but had a short period back at Monmore Green in 1969. Francis retired in 1973 after spells with Cradley Heath, Ellesmere Port and Stoke.

In his seven seasons at Monmore Green, he scored 1,035 paid points in 180 meetings. He is one of just 25 riders to have scored more than 1,000 points for Wolverhampton.

Meanwhile, Jacob Thorssell made the semi-final in the Premiership Riders Championship meeting at Wimborne Road, which was won by Jason Doyle.

Woffy is set to end his GB team exile

TAI WOFFINDEN, Great Britain's double world champion, is to make himself available for a sensational return for his national side in this summer's Monster Energy FIM Speedway of Nations.

Woffinden sat out last year's World Cup campaign but has moved to end his exile after being overwhelmed with the level of support he received when meeting fans at stage shows in Halifax and Berwick in February, as well as holding talks with officials.

"When I did three shows in Berwick and Halifax the fans were asked to put their hands up if they wanted to see me ride for GB again," he said. "And when I saw every single person put their hand up I couldn't believe it, it was really cool to see and it got me thinking.

"I don't want my British fans to think I have ever forgotten about them, but I needed to take some time out and having the year out has obviously worked as changes are being made, the type of things I have been pushing for over the last five years."

Sport

More golden memories as promotion is relived – Page 39

Thriller for DKs ends in heartbreak

A CRACKING game to end the season but dismay for Dudley Kingswinford as Syston's 37-33 victory saw them progress to Midlands Premier.

For the neutral the game was certainly spectacular with each side scoring five tries and the lead changing hands on seven occasions but a cruel blow to DK's, who had home advantage.

After the visitors took the lead, Garth Bown in his first league game of the season put in a sublime reverse kick which was collected by Nick Adams who touched down to cut the arrears

Connah Jones was through and over the line for a try with Sam Vaughan adding the extras to see DK 12-10 in the lead before Syston hit back with a penalty and went into half time 13-12 up.

They were further ahead 20-12 to Syston before Vaughan scored near the posts and added the extras himself to haul DK back to within a point .

DK were again falling behind until Danny Hawkins crashed through to score a try, and the conversion by Vaughan saw DK into the lead 26-25.

The lead changed hands again until DK were back in the lead going into the last five minutes, when second row Matt Perks crashed over, following a break made by right wing Tommy Walker, with Vaughon on target DK in the lead 33-30.

Then, with three minutes with to go, it was heartbreak for DK when a turnover saw the DK defence exposed and the Syston wing flying for the line too secure the win 37-33.

Ross win the Vase again but Wasps have the last word

ROSS on Wye won the North Midlands Vase for the fourth time and retained their title with a 41-13 victory over Dudley Wasps at Dudley Kingswinford's Heathbrook ground.

Although Ross play their league rugby in the South West, where they won the Gloucester Two title this season, they remain a proud North Midlands club and they are most successful club in the Vase since the competition was introduced in 2006. Ross scored 1,194 points and conceded only 100 in winning their league and they demonstrated why.

Dudley pulled back seven points on the stroke of half-time when scrum-half James Jefferson rounded off an attack started by a burst from number eight Chris Handley and George Ingram added the extras. But any thoughts of a sustained Dudley fightback were quickly snuffed out.

Ross rounded off their scoring when Dudley made an abortive attempt to attack from deep, turned over possession and Craig Smith touched down. But Dudley had the last word when George Morgan went over from close range.

Rutter aims to be Zero hero at TT

Michael Rutter

BRIERLEY Hill-born racer Michael Rutter will be sure of an electric reception on the Isle of Man this year after bagging a ride in the TT Zero.

The 46-year-old has been snapped up by Honda's Team Mugen for the 2018 race, from May 26 to June 8.

His place, however, was tinged with sadness as the position only became available after popular New Zealander Bruce Anstey, winner of the two previous electric bike races, was forced to withdraw from all racing during 2018 while he undergoes medical treatment for a serious illness.

Twenty-three times TT winner John McGuinness, a good friend of Rutter's, has also been forced to withdraw from the Shinden programme after suffering a setback as he recovers from a horror break last year at the North West 200, having re-fractured the same leg.

Team Mugen has comfortably won the last three TT Zero races, which is one lap of the 37.73-mile Isle of Man TT course.

The last person to win on a different machine was Rutter, who claimed a third-straight win back in 2013 while riding for the MotoCzysz team.

He has been victorious every time he has competed on an electric bike and will form part of two-man team, joining up with Northern Ireland's Lee Johnston.

Rutter said: "It's a great opportunity but obviously its horrific circumstances behind how it all came about."

FANS INSPIRE CUP VICTORY

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett praised the Glassboys' 'fantastic fans' after seeing his team end the season on a high by lifting the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Two goals from Luke Benbow saw Stourbridge triumph 2-1 over Hednesford in the final held at Birmingham's St Andrew's stadium last week.

The result meant Stourbridge lifted the trophy for the first time in 50 years – much to the delight of Hackett.

"I said before in the dressing room that we'd played 62 games, we hadn't won the cup for 50 years and it would be a great way to finish the season," the boss said.

"It's been a difficult season. But I'm absolutely delighted for everyone at the club. It's not just the players, the staff, it's for everybody.

"It was great for the fans. They've gone to Birmingham City and a Championship ground and seen Stourbridge win it for the first time in 50 years.

"We are used to some good times but twice in my tenure we've been beaten in the Birmingham Senior Cup final so I'm absolutely delighted."

Supporters

Hackett said he was particularly pleased for the club's supporters.

"The fans have been fantastic all season," he added. "Even at times when things haven't gone for us they have been behind us.

"I just knew we'd completely outnumber Hednesford. It lifted the players and the celebrations at the end were for them as well."

It was striker Luke Benbow who proved the difference between the sides at St Andrew's with the Glassboys talisman giving his team a first-half lead before then netting a winner in stoppage time after Pitmen had pulled level with a smart header from Charlie Gatt.

Luke Benbow (right) and Brad Birch lift the Birmingham FA Senior Cup after victory over Hednesford

Tipton Harriers dominate DK's 10k race

IT was Dudley Kingswinford's turn to play host to the other local clubs as the blue hoops invited athletes to join them at their annual DK10k road race, sponsored by LCP.

The opportunity to race over a testing course on closed roads always ensures that the race reaches capacity. It proved to be a successful night for athletes from Tipton Harriers with the green and white hoops filling the top five places in the men's race and four of the top five in the ladies'. Peter Brookes claimed victory in a time of 31.56 from club mates Ian Williams in 33.14 and Stephen Corbishley in 33.51. Amie Williams won in 37.25 from Sally Ann Walker runner up in 39.02 and Elizabeth Watters, the only athlete capable of breaking Tipton dominance, placed third in 39.45.

Stuart Perkins led the blue hoops home finishing 11th in 36.30, Freddie Woodward was 52nd in 40.16, Simon Blizzard 72nd in 41.16 and Helen Tromans finished in 93rd to claim first female back for the club with a time of 42.47.

Himley are pacesetters in division 1

HIMLEY are the early pacesetters in Division One of the Birmingham League. They climbed to the top of the table on the back of a resounding nine-wicket success at home to Barnards Green.

England under-19 paceman Adam Finch took 4-28 while experienced campaigner Chris Boroughs claimed 3-21 as the visitors were rolled over for 85.

Bilaal Hussain's unbeaten 39 helped Himley on their way to victory.

Kidderminster are second after a 141-run success over Halesowen.

Skipper Neil Pinner was the star of the show with a fine 123 in Kidderminster's 245-9. Barney Morgan's 4-20 helped roll Halesowen for 104.

In Division Two, Penkridge (247-6) beat Wombourne (242) by four wickets.

C&R Hawks saw off Coventry NW by five wickets while Fordhouses lost to Harborne.

Old Hill and Stourbridge are two of four sides locked at the top of Division Three on 45 points.

Zahid Kafiat took 6-50 as Newport fell for 11 in reply to Old Hill's 229.

Harshad Patel hit an unbeaten century to steer Stourbridge to an eight-wicket success against Redditch.

In the Premier Division West Bromwich Dartmouth continued their strong start to the season by beating Berkswell at home.

Dartmouth wrapped up the game with 15 overs and five wickets to spare as they surpassed Berkswell's 130, earning 20 points.

Bowtell signs as cover for Heathens

CRADLEY have signed Lakeside racer Alfie Bowtell. He steps in as a replacement for Jordan Jenkins who crashed in a meeting at Birmingham and sustained a cracked vertebrae.

Motor Market Heathens boss Will Pottinger said: "Jordan will be a big miss for us. Unfortunately, he could be out for anything as long as three months."

Bowtell makes his Heathens debut at Monmore against Coventry on Monday.

Pottinger's National Trophy team ran out 37-22 winners at Stoke after referee Stuart Wilson declared the track unfit for racing after 10 races due to heavy rain.

★★★

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING The recycled content of newspapers in 2017 was 64.6%

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, May 17, 2018

Domino's® 01384 374666
Stourbridge Industrial Estate, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN
Opening Hours: 11am to 11pm Sunday-Thursday
11am to Midnight Friday and Saturday

Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

INSIDE: YOUR REGULAR CHRONICLE

Thursday, May 17, 2018 | Read by more than 52,000 people | Price when sold 70p

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

GOLD, SILVER & COLLECTABLES WANTED FOR CASH

IF YOU HAVE OLD, BROKEN, UNUSED, UNWANTED **GOLD** JEWELLERY IN ANY CONDITION BRING IT TO THE EXPERTS.

2 DAY ROADSHOW
THE TALBOT HOTEL

High St, Stourbridge, DY8 1DW

Wednesday 23rd May 10am - 3pm
Thursday 24th May 10am - 3pm

ALL SILVER WANTED FOR CASH IN ANY CONDITION

PLATINUM & DIAMOND ANY CONDITION

BROKEN, DAMAGED ANY CONDITION

NO OBLIGATION FREE VALUATION

PRE 1947 SILVER COINS WE PAY 8 X FACE VALUE

WE GUARANTEE TO OUTBID ANY GENUINE OFFER

NO ITEM TOO SMALL OR LARGE

Discreet home visits available in your area
Please call Sarah on 07981 688278

GOLD JEWELLERY

Not all gold is scrap gold, we try to rescue as many articles as we can especially antique items. So we can pay a premium for any gold that is not scrap

SCRAP GOLD

We urgently require broken gold, remember when selling gold, broken or not it has the same value regardless of its condition as it should be bought in weight rather than quality

GOLD COINS & MEDALS

We buy all gold coins & medals, unlike many of our competitors we are not bothered about condition. We buy Sovereigns, Krugerrands, Eagles, Maples, Pandas, Britannias & indeed all gold coins

ASIAN & FOREIGN GOLD

We buy all types of Asian & foreign gold, we pay the best prices for it. We specialise in Indian gold, Middle Eastern gold, European gold, Turkish gold & Chinese gold with or without hallmarks

GOLD & NON GOLD WATCHES

We urgently require working or broken watches, gold or not including Rolex, Omega, IWC, Cartier, Breitling watches and military watches. We pay top prices in cash with no postal risks

ANTIQUE & MISC GOLD ITEMS

We buy all antique jewellery items & gold & silver pocket watches, old wristwatches, costume jewellery, military medals. Antique diamond jewellery bought for cash

DIAMONDS & PLATINUM

Top prices paid for all diamond items even if there are stones missing. Any platinum bought for cash in any condition! We are always looking to purchase antique diamond jewellery & large sapphires, emeralds & rubies

SILVER

Tea sets, cutlery, trays, candlesticks, cigarette cases, ingots, spoons, boxes, jewellery, watches, investment silver, proof sets, medals, coins, charm bracelets, pocket watches, trophies

VINTAGE COSTUME JEWELLERY

We will also buy your collections of vintage costume jewellery, why not bring the whole jewellery box and find out what it's worth!

GOLD COINS

Gold coins of any description, in any condition, proof sets, Sovereigns, Krugerrands. We also buy silver coin proof sets

POCKET WATCHES

Cash paid for gold and silver pocket watches in any condition, working or broken they still have a value to us

PRE 1947 SILVER COINS

We pay 8 x face value for all pre 1947 silver coins. You bring in £10 face value & we will give you £80 cash

LADIES WATCHES

Gold ladies wristwatches that have gone out of fashion, face is too small, broken & cost to much to repair? Bring it along

WEDDING RINGS

Old wedding rings or engagement rings, jewellery from a previous relationship that is sat in the back if the drawer doing nothing? Bring it along

CHARM BRACELETS

All gold and silver charm bracelets wanted for cash. In any condition, dirty, broken, it does not matter to us!

Enquiries 07981 688278 or visit WWW.WINDSORBULLION.CO.UK

Vintage Omega Speedmasters

Amber

Cherry Amber / Bakelite

Louis Vuitton Trunks

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE ITEMS?

WE WILL MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU CANNOT REFUSE, IN ANY CONDITION.

TOP PRICES IN EVERY INSTANCE

LARGE DIAMONDS 1CT +

MASONIC COLLECTABLES

ART DECO DIAMOND JEWELLERY

CULTURED PEARLS

GOLD BROOCHES

COSTUME BROOCHES

BOXES OF COSTUME JEWELLERY

MINIATURE PORTRAITS

ART NOUVEAU JEWELLERY

ROLLED GOLD

GOLD LOCKETS

MILITARY MEDALS

ANTIQUE SILVER

OLD GOLD WATCH CHAINS

VESTA CASES

SCOTTISH SILVER

CARTIER LIGHTERS

DRESSING TABLE SETS

ENAMEL CIGARETTE CASES

CAMEO BROOCHES

CORAL JEWELLERY

SILVER TEA SERVICES

COIN BRACELETS

VINTAGE COMPACTS

ANTIQUE BANGLES

SILVER HAT PINS

ANTIQUE RINGS

BAKELITE JEWELLERY

ART DECO JEWELLERY

VINTAGE GLASS NECKLACES

VINTAGE & ANTIQUE AMBER NECKLACES & BEADS WANTED!

GOOD AMBER NECKLACES ARE COMMANDING VERY HIGH PRICES,
DO YOU HAVE ONE HIDDEN AWAY? BRING IT ALONG & FIND OUT WHAT IT'S WORTH!

Enquiries 07981 688278 or visit WWW.WINDSORBULLION.CO.UK

WE WISH TO PURCHASE IN ANY CONDITION

WRISTWATCHES, POCKET WATCHES & UNUSUAL TIME PIECES

Avia
Accurist
Breitling
Cartier
Gerrard
I.W.C
J W Benson
Jaeger LeCoultre
Longines
Mappin & Webb
Military
Omega
Oris
Patek Philippe
Pocket Watches
Rolex
Rotary
Roamer
Seiko
Smiths
Tag Heuer
Tissot
Tudor
Vacheron & Constantin
Zenith
etc etc

CARRIAGE CLOCKS

DIAMOND COCKTAIL WATCHES

1970's WATCHES

GOLD POCKET WATCHES

ANTIQUE SILVER POCKET WATCHES

ART DECO WATCHES

GOLD PLATED WATCHES

MILITARY POCKET WATCHES

TRENCH WRISTWATCHES

LADIES GOLD WATCHES

MENS GOLD WATCHES

PREMIUM WRISTWATCHES, ROLEX, OMEGA ETC

MILITARY WRISTWATCHES

REPEATER POCKET WATCHES

STAINLESS STEEL WATCHES

NONE GOLD VINTAGE WATCHES

WE SPECIALISE IN HIGH GRADE FOREIGN GOLD WITH OR WITHOUT HALLMARKS

INDIAN - TURKISH
SAUDI - THAI
IN ANY CONDITION!
14CT, 18CT,
21CT, 22CT, 24CT

Enquiries 07981 688278 or visit WWW.WINDSORBULLION.CO.UK

GOLD, SILVER & COLLECTABLES WANTED FOR CASH

IF YOU HAVE OLD, BROKEN, UNUSED, UNWANTED **GOLD** JEWELLERY IN ANY CONDITION BRING IT TO THE EXPERTS.

2 DAY ROADSHOW
THE TALBOT HOTEL

High St, Stourbridge, DY8 1DW

Wednesday 23rd May 10am - 3pm
Thursday 24th May 10am - 3pm

DISCREET HOME VISITS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA - PLEASE CALL SARAH ON 07981 688278

VINTAGE 1950's, 1960's, 1970's, 1980's WATCHES WANTED

ROLEX • OMEGA • ENICAR • TAG HEUER • LEMANIA • YEMA • BREITLING • ZENITH • ETERNA • IWC • JAEGER LECOULTRE

WANTED
ANY WATCHES
WITH CHRONOGRAPH
OR
MULTI DIALS

DOUBLE / SINGLE
BUTTONS

UNSURE?
BRING IT ALONG
TO FIND OUT

VINTAGE OMEGA
SPEEDMASTERS
WANTED IN
ANY CONDITION

WORKING
NOT WORKING
PARTS MISSING

WE WILL PAY A
MINIMUM OF £500 FOR
A BROKEN1960'S
OMEGA SPEEDMASTER

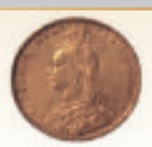
DIVERS WATCHES • RALLY WATCHES • MILITARY WATCHES • PILOTS WATCHES • ANY CONDITION

PREMIUM PAID FOR WATCHES WITH ORIGINAL BOX & PAPERS - WHOLE COLLECTIONS PURCHASED

WE BUY GOLD & SILVER COINS IN ANY CONDITION

Gold Coins
Gold Bars
Silver Coins
Silver Bars
Sovereigns
Krugerrands
Coin Sets
£5 Piece
Antique Gold & Silver Coins
Fine Gold
Guineas
Britanias
Foreign Gold Coins
Pre 1947 Silver Coins

This Week's Full Sovereign Price £215


SOVEREIGNS

COIN PENDANTS

KRUGGERANDS

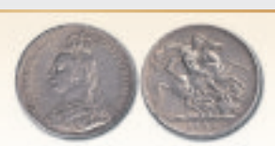
COIN RINGS

GOLD PROOF SETS

ANTIQUE GOLD COINS

SILVER PROOF SETS

PRE 1947 SILVER COINS


SILVER CROWNS

WE PAY 8 X FACE VALUE FOR PRE 1947 SILVER COINS HALF CROWNS • SHILLINGS • FLORINS • SIXPENCE • THREEPENCE